没落予定なので、
鍛冶職人を目指す
著◆CK
◆かわく
カドカワBOOKS

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lang="en">

Botsuraku Youtei Nanode, Kajishokunin wo Mezasu - Volume 01 (WN Chapter 01-20)

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Volume 1 Illustrations (Spoilers) (Incomplete)

LN Cover:

Coloured Illustrations:

「かっこいい……と思いましたわ」

「だからそこは触るな！」
「……もう、自分たちの部屋でやってくれません？」
「強くなりたいなら、まずは体を作れ」
没落予定なので、
鍛冶職人を目指す

From left to right:

Prince Arc:

Luck: E Appearance: A
Swordsmanship: A Magic: B
Charisma: A
Boke (Simple Mindedness): A
Tsukkomi(Retort): D
Common Sense: D

Rail:

Luck: B Appearance: B
Swordsmanship: B Magic: B
Charisma: B
Boke (Simple Mindedness): B
Tsukkomi(Retort): B
Common Sense: B

Eliza:

Luck: C Appearance: A
Swordsmanship: B Magic: C
Charisma: B
Boke (Simple Mindedness): A
Tsukkomi(Retort): E
Common Sense: D

Toto:

Luck: D Appearance: D
Swordsmanship: D Magic: D
Charisma: E
Boke (Simple Mindedness): C
Tsukkomi(Retort): D
Common Sense: D

Crossy:

Luck: B Appearance: A
Swordsmanship: D Magic: D
Charisma: A
Boke (Simple Mindedness): D
Tsukkomi(Retort): D
Common Sense: C

Vaine:

Luck: C Appearance: B
Swordsmanship: A Magic: E
Charisma: B
Boke (Simple Mindedness): B
Tsukkomi(Retort): E
Common Sense: E

Iris:

Luck: A Appearance: A
Swordsmanship: C Magic: B

Charisma: A
Boke (Simple Mindedness): D
Tsukkomi(Retort): C
Common Sense: A

Kururi:

Luck: C Appearance: B
Swordsmanship: C Magic: A
Charisma: B
Boke (Simple Mindedness): B
Tsukkomi(Retort): A
Common Sense: B

Other Illustrations (Incomplete):

Chapter 1

没落予定なので、鍛治職人を目指す

Botsuraku youtei nanode, Kajishokunin wo mezasu

Expecting to fall into ruin, I aim to become a blacksmith

Chapter 1-1

If I had stopped at that time… .
Even if one wants to eat an apple, a fatty shouldn't be climbing a tree.

However, it is already too late. I fell from atop the tree to the ground.
Additionally, headfirst.
Before feeling any pain I fell unconscious, and was carried back inside my home by a servant.

It was just one day later that I woke up.
"Are you alright? Kururi?"
Worriedly peeking into my face was my mother, Aisu Helan.
Having falling headfirst, it must have been quite a worry. She seems to have looked after me.
However, I had something greater to worry about.
Assumedly from receiving a strong blow to the head, I had recovered the memories from my past life.

In my previous life I was a student, but my memory ceases after meeting a traffic accident.
So, I must have died in that accident. And Kururi Helan is my current life's personage.

Twelve years old, the young master of a noble family; having been spoiled my figure is chubby.
Luckily, my features are good, so if I lose some weight, it should turn out well.
A wealthy family and blessed with potential. While I thought this to be a lucky rebirth, I remember this name, "Kururi Helan," from my previous life.

“Gensou Academy,” The simulation RPG I had gotten hooked on in my past life
The female protagonist, while pursuing a romance, deepens her connections with royalty and nobles.
The main component of the story is that the rival, who finds the main character to be unpleasant, acts to obstruct the main character. It had battle and training elements, so even a guy like me got hooked on it.
While the game depicts the commoner main character’s so to speak “success story,” whatever the conclusion, I, Kururi Helan, will assuredly appear in the ending.
That ending always depicts the rival and main character’s following lives.

Generally, after the main character’s happy end is displayed, the married couple of the rival and Kururi Helan’s impoverished farming scene follows.
In addition, the character Kururi Helan appears only one other time in-game.
This scene only shows him stuffing his face like a pig in the cafeteria, where the rival comments on his appearance as “gross.”
Even though nothing other than that is written, for some reason, Kururi falls into ruin alongside the villainess.
Nothing in detail is written!!
Kururi Helan’s crude usage couldn’t be called anything other than the staff’s bullying.
However many times I saw him, the pitiful Kururi Helan.
The face reflected in the mirror before me was unmistakeably Illusory Academy’s Kururi Helan.

“What have I gotten into?”
Even though I was born into nobility, I’ve been placed in a route of decline from an unknown cause.

Chapter 1 character list

← TOC →

Comments on wording or grammar are encouraged.

This first chapter is short compared to other chapters, and should be regarded

as a prologue. The chapters will increase in length a bit, then settle down if I remember correctly.
(Also, to those expecting blacksmithing, while he does learn blacksmithing, this story does not go into any detail about blacksmithing nor is his skill in blacksmithing very often relevant. This story is mainly fantasy/adventure/romance to my memory.)

Translation comments:

Note: I chose to translate 悪役令嬢(akuyaku reijyou, lit. (villain/villain's part) (daughter/young woman)) as simply villainess and ライバル令嬢(raibaru reijyou, lit. rival (daughter/young woman)) as simply rival. As stated above, I wrote gensou(幻想) as the school's name rather than the translation of the word. This is partly due to is being a location.
I will generally try to keep the writing of sentences as close to the original as possible, while sometimes omitting a couple of words or rearranging a sentence so it contains the same meaning while being easier to read and I will occasionally split a sentence into two or combine two into one in order for it the be more pleasantly read. This is partially due to some Japanese not having an equivalent word in English.
This is my first translation project, so the translation quality and speed should increase with time.

Chapter 2

没落予定なので、鍛治職人を目指す

Botsuraku youtei nanode, Kajishokunin wo mezasu

Expecting to fall into ruin, I aim to become a blacksmith

Chapter 1-2

The Helan household, which had not been written of in the game, was what is called a noble lineage.
While an a lineage of extensive history, serving the royal family from the founding of the nation, yet having birthed no one of excelling quality for generations, one can look back and see it has been in a continuous state of decay.

My father, Toral, has a gentle character and is loved by the people of his fief, but is not smart and cannot use the sword nor magic. In the society of nobles, he is spoken of being a pig that parasites off of the royal family behind his back.
My mother cannot be seen to be encouraging father either, passing time by without a care together.

"It's peaceful."
Truly a peaceful household.
While progressively decaying, it isn't so much as to bankrupt during my generation. However, I don't understand why I, Kururi Helan, end up falling into ruin with that villainess.
Although, I have seen that ending which gives a tragic feeling countless times.
I don't want to end up like that.
I lived up until now enjoying the sweet nectar of noble society; at this point, there's no way I can bear a peasant's lifestyle.
I wiped off the sweat I felt on my forehead and made a decision.
Let's improve this little by little.

I don't understand how I end up with the villainess; it is also possible that we

end up together after falling into ruin.

I of course want to avoid falling into ruin, but I'm thinking I'll assume a profession so that I'll be fine even if I do.
If you have your hand in a profession, you'll be able to live. Even if it's not luxurious, it's better than that ending.
No, I might as well aim higher. If I stood at the top of this world, I would be able to live quite the good life.
To go even further, Let's receive the fallen villainess with a warm reception.
If I remember correctly she had quite a beautiful face.

Since I've decided as such, it's necessary to go ahead and decide what to study.
The Academy we nobility attend we enter after turning fifteen years of age. One studies until eighteen, then after graduation sets out on their respective path.
During that three year period, the story of Gensou Academy unfolds.
I am now twelve years old, so there are three years until enrollment.
It's a perfect amount of time to invest into something.
I immediately discussed it with my parents, but I received the natural reply of, "There's no need to assume a profession for a noble.
However, my mother, Aisu, said, "You used to be quite knowledgeable in the making of swords, shields, and the like. Why don't you study under a blacksmith?"
"Kaa-san, don't give Kururi any strange ideas."
"Oh, A child saying he wants to do something from his own volition is great. If he's just going to spend his time at home, then it would be better to let him experience many things."
"…yes, that's true."

My parents both gave their acceptance, so I think I'll learn blacksmithing as my mother recommended.
Even within the game there was weapons refining. I had even refined weapons that weren't available within shops.
Now that I've decided, one must strike when the iron is hot; I searched around the smithies in the territory and visited the smithy that was said to hold the place of best among the population of the fief.

“Excuse me”
I yelled out at the front of the smithy, but the door did not open. I suppose it’s fine to enter on your own.
“Donga Weapons Shop” was written on the signboard, so I shouldn’t be mistaken.
I tried opening the door apprehensively.

I enter the building and from the back, where ready-made goods were lined up, there was sound of metal striking metal to a pleasant rhythm.

“Is Donga-san present?”
I let out a slightly loud voice.
After a moment, A old man with the figure of a dwarf came out from the back of the store.
“What?” The gravely voice is quite overbearing.

“Um, Are you taking apprentices?”
“That’s sudden.”
“It is sudden. Sorry.”
“If it were someone with some good muscle, I’d think about it, but you’re out of the question.”
“Why is that?”
“You the feudal lord’s idiot son, right? With those pretty clothes and that extravagant fat, you’d immediately know.”
“Does a smith choose his lineage?” I said in a slightly provocative way.
Donga laughed slightly. “If you lose that high-class meat, I’ll listen to your request.”
“Understood. I’ll come again.”

I left the shop obediently and returned home.
I stand before a mirror and look myself over again.
Un, chubby.
A chubby twelve year old attractive young boy, looking at myself I thought I had a soothing appearance.
Throwing away this calming quality is a bit wasteful, but let’s do it.
Let’s go ahead and start exercising from tomorrow.

Chapter 2 character list

Translation comments:

Translated 貴族の世界(kizoku no sekai, the world of nobles) as noble society/ the society of nobles as it sounds more natural in English.
Trying to keep as much as possible in English, so I translated 美少年(bishounen) as attractive young boy and 癒し系 as soothing appearance/calming quality.
In regards to the line, “Kaa-san, don’t give Kururi and strange ideas.” This is Toral speaking to Aisu just in case you were uncertain. I didn’t put a note by the line because I thought it should be obvious enough and I want to keep notes within the text as low as possible. If I believe it to be too difficult to differentiate, I will label the lines as well as I can differentiate in the text. Also, calling you wife “mom” when you have a kid is a Japanese thing.

Chapter 3

没落予定なので、鍛治職人を目指す

Botsuraku youtei nanode, Kajishokunin wo mezasu

Expecting to fall into ruin, I aim to become a blacksmith

Chapter 1-3

In losing weight, limited caloric intake… No! It's exercise!
After getting used to moving around from running, let's try out some sports.

Having decided as such, first is stretching.
Bodybuilding is the most important part of exercise after all.
I go ahead and try stretching my body and, this body is flexible, flexible.
How smoothly my body stretches.
Yo, yo, to. Un. My body moves smoothly in just the way I thought.
Isn't this a great body.
While having such a potential and not exercising, what a waste.

I don't want to damage my knees, so for the first day I started from walking, but as expected, my state is very good.
I took a break after one hour of walking, but my my mood was elevated, a sign my body still had an urge to move.

However, that's all for today.
After finishing my post-exercise cool-down and stretching, I took a relieving shower.
"Ya, Tou-sama."
While passing by father, I gave a refreshing greeting.
Father made a blank expression.
Come to think of it, I was never this energetic at noon before.
The me before would be in the middle of eating sweets on my bed at this time.
After exercising, I become thirsty.
Usually I would have some homemade lemonade with lots of honey without

hesitation, but today I drew some water from underground and drank it.
Puha-! It's pleasantly cool and refreshing.
Pure water without any impurities is as expected, delicious. Having been blessed with this nature yet having not taking advantage of it until now, how wasteful.
"Young master, If you would say it to us, we would draw fresh water for you at any time."
The maid, Mary, called to me while watching me draw water.
"No, I can do this much myself. I'm always causing trouble for you, so please let me take care of my own business myself."
"No, it's not trouble at all."
Mary made a face like she had been doused by cold water.
Now that I think of it, I have a feeling this is the first time I have shown any consideration toward the maids.

Our Helan territory is famous for its beautiful nature.
A vast stretch of land abundant with vegetation, with over ten natural flower gardens within the territory.
The father of our country, the first king said, "If I'm going to die, I want it to be here," expressing his love for this land.
However, The amount of people in this time period with a love of nature is decreasing.
Visitors to our territory decreases by the year; additionally, it possesses no unique local product.
Residents are moving into another territory when experiencing financial difficultly.
Our territory progressively declined in this way.
While it would fine if we received assistance from the king, sadly our house possesses no such connections.

Well, I'll look for a hint for solving that along the way.
First is taking care of myself.

I ended up with free time after exercising. Normally I would… what did I do?
For now, a nap, I suppose.
However, I can't sleep at all.
My mind is too clear.

With nothing else to do, I went to our house's library.
Now that I think about it, it's the first time I've come to the library.
The reason I call it a library is that it is so large that it makes you feel restrained.
A building with three floors with books lined up in shelves to the brim on each floor. Each floor is also respectively big and well suited to hide-and-seek…, what a great library!

"Well well, Young master. Welcome to the archives."
The person who popped their head out from the second floor was Modan-jii. He is the manager of the library; I knew his face and name, but I don't know what kind of person he is.
"How are you today?"
"Hey, Modan-jii. My mind is hopelessly clear. Are there any interesting books?"
"Umm, Even is you say that, what field do you have interest in? Also, My name is Moran."
"Ah, Sorry Moran-jii." It was Moran, huh. I didn't even know his name.
"Mn, Then I'd like to try reading a magic tome."
"A magic tome? You'll start learning from fifteen at the academy, but there's certainly no loss in establishing your fundamentals."
After saying this, Moran-jii disapppeared into the back of the library, then reappearing after a short while.
"This, This book is very easy to read. It's contents are mainly introduction and beginner's level, but it's written so that it's extremely easy to read. This is the ideal book for making your foundation. Towards the end it has a section on application, if you're interested." After finishing speaking, Moran-jii threw a book down from the second floor.
I somehow managed to catch it, but this grandpa is quite bold in comparison to his looks.

Magic tome 1 Introduction by Chris Helan

Huh? The author is written as Helan. Perhaps an ancestor?
The book's contents were, as Moran-jii said, very easy to understand.
In the three hours of my first day, I managed to squeeze out some mana.
Let's learn how to change the property of mana tomorrow.

At evening, the food lined on the table seems to shine more than usual. Right

now, I experienced the sensation of hunger for the very first time.
Because I had always been eating up until now.
From meat to vegetables, all of it is freshly pick from inside the territory. I took some of each for balance and enjoyed the meal.
“You were a little strange today, but you really are the usual Kururi-chan.”
Mother gave a relieved expression.
“Thanks for the food. It was delicious,” I tell the maids, and I drank not the usual sugar-added apple juice, but some natural water.
“As I thought, perhaps the effect of hitting his head is remaining.” Mother, seeing me drink water, ended up worried after all.

I entered the bath overlooking a flowerbed, then entered a bed unsuitably large for me.
A pleasant, luxurious life.
I fell into slumber in a satisfied mood.

Chapter 3 character list

← TOC →

Translation notes:

Both Modan and Kururi use the same word 書庫 (shoko, meaning archive, library, or book storage) I had Kururi say library and Moran say Archive since it felt more appropriate considering their behavior and positions.
The suffix -jii you can think of as gramps or something(though Modan isn’t Kururi’s grandfather).

Bonus – this is what it looks like when I’m in the middle of translating.

View post on imgur.com

Chapter 4

没落予定なので、鍛治職人を目指す

Botsuraku youtei nanode, Kajishokunin wo mezasu

Expecting to fall into ruin, I aim to become a blacksmith

Chapter 1-4

A week after starting to exercise, it began to show on my face that I was slimming up and I gained enough stamina to start running.
I also made good progress in magic by succeeding in changing the property of mana to fire and water. My total mana is also increasing at a good rate. It seems that unlike his parents, Kururi had talent in magic.

I wake up early and then run around the territory. I felt admiration towards the population, seeing them working from the morning.
I managed to get the them to remember my face within this one week period. After all, I had spent all my time at home up until now.

Even if I break out into a run now, it's not painful. Rather, my tension raises and I end up wanting to run more and more.
As I thought, Kururi's bodily potential is high. The efforts I put in give equivalent results. The more I move, the lighter my body seems to become.

Although I don't want to overdo it. Overexertion should be avoided in the growth period.
I finish up at a decent spot and head to the usual library.

By the way, in the changing of the property of mana, I got stuck on lightning. Water and fire were simple, but I had quite a bit of trouble invoking lightning.

"Moran-jii, It just won't go well."
"Hohoho, Repetition is important in everything. If you continue, you'll become able to do it."
As expected, that old man's words have a different weight.

Well, in in the end, I wasn't able to invoke it today.

After supper, I gave my body a look-over in the mirror.
Uun, It's not just the face, but the body is also showing a positive change. This is a good trend.

After continuing the practice of magic and exercise for around a month, my body was beyond recognition.
My body is slim and taught, and the face is of an attractive young boy.
I also mastered the basics of property change in magic and my total mana is getting to be a bit of a crazy level.

My body is light. It feels like I'd go flying if I were to jump. I can perform headstands and somersaults as I please. Nobody could call me the plump and calming Kururi anymore.

Let's head to that old man Donga at once.
I led out a horse and mounted it.
Lets go!
At the same time the horse began to run, I fell through the air.
I thought too well of my abilities. For horse riding to be this hard. I fell into a misapprehension that I would be able to do anything just because I lost some weight.

"Kururi-sama! Are you alright!?" The attendant in charge of the horses came running.
"I want you to teach me horse riding"
"U, Understood."
The attendant helped me up, though I was covered in dirt.

The most essential thing in horse riding is leg strength. If you don't hold your thighs tightly against the horse's stomach you will fall.
On the first day, I fell down when dismounting the horse. My legs were so fatigued to the point that I couldn't manage to stand up by myself.
"Everyone's like that at first," the attendant kindly comforted me. He's a nice guy.

However, a mere horse was nothing in front of the potential of Kururi.
In no matter of time, a week passed, and I became able to ride a horse.

It was at a level that I would say,“I’ll go take a quick run,” with a triumphant air.

Now I can finally go to that old man Donga’s place.

“Excuse me.” I stood at the entrance to Donga’s Weapon Shop and raised my voice.
As expected, he didn’t come out, so I entered on my own.
“Donga-san!!”
“What!? How noisy!
N? The feudal lord’s idiot son?”
“Y-yes, I am the Kururi that came three months before.”
“Hoo, You’ve lost weight. I didn’t recognize you.”
“I have come to learn blacksmithing.”
“Ah, there was something like that. Well, Come in. If I can’t use you, I’ll kick you out.”
“I’ll be in your care.”

In contrast to old man Donga’s appearance and choice of words, he taught me with care.
Since Donga knew I could use magic, he left the tending of fire to me.
After entering the smithy and continuing odd-jobs for a months time, I finally got to learn about smithing.

“It’s been one month since you got here. You’ve gotten used to the environment, try striking some iron.”
“Understood,” I answered while wiping the soot of my face with a towel.

“Striking iron is for removing the impurities from that iron and raise the purity. In addition, you strike iron to creating balance and to mix different types of metal.
Well, anyway, there’s a lot to striking iron. There’s nothing better for improvement that to just keep striking iron.”
“Understood.”
As old man Donga said to, I struck iron every day.

From odd-jobs, to when I realized it, serving customers, stocking became my job, so I ended up to be almost living in the smithy.

I properly informed my parents, but, “I’m always worried about what the kid is doing every day.”

That lifestyle continued for one year and, “You’ve got the feeling of completely becoming a man of the smithy.” I received such an expression of approval from my master, Donga.
In contrast to my thin body, my hands became very rough.
I took on countless burn scars, blisters, and other such wounds.
Ah, A year is quite something.

On a certain day, I was called out by master.
“Did you make this sword?”
What master was holding was a sword I had made last night.
“Yeah, I did though?”
Master was lost for words.
“The purity is high, the balance is almost perfectly equal. When I reached this level I was in my late thirties.”
Master continued to mumble.
While it was certainly quite a good work, recently I’ve been able to consistently reach that level. Master had just not realized that.

“This is great. Kururi, I have nothing left I can teach you. From here on is a battle against yourself. The world will belong to the one who seeks to improve theirself.”
“Huh-!?”
“Your skills have already reached near to the level of a master. You won’t be able to improve from the teachings of others. From here on is a level where you have to face against yourself.”
“Haa-, Um-It’s fine to say that I would be able to support myself at this level, right?”
“Aa, For a test, let’s put this sword out in the store. I’m sure it’ll immediately sell.”
Oo!!
I did it. I’ve gotten myself a profession, haven’t I?!

“There’s nothing else I can teach you, but continue to strike metal every day. If you rest, your skill will drop.”

“Understood. Thank you very much, master!”
“What a frightful talent. What a waste for you to be born as the feudal lord’s son.”
No, that’s something to be taken as lucky normally.

For the first time in awhile, I returned home, and had a personal smithy built. “Kururi-chan has come back home,” the whole house filled with a clamor. My parents were particularly happy and had the smithy built more magnificent that needed.

After that, my lifestyle will become that of making laps between the smithy and the library, I guess.
If I’m making swords, I might as well try my hand at learning to use one. Yeah, let’s ask my parents later. They’ll surely be opposed, though.

← TOC →

No new named characters, so no new character list post.
Notice how he goes from old man Donga to master Donga. This is of course, used to convey the change in relationship between then as they spend their time together. I don’t really think it needs to be explained, but I thought it was neat.

Chapter 5

没落予定なので、鍛治職人を目指す

Botsuraku youtei nanode, Kajishokunin wo mezasu

Expecting to fall into ruin, I aim to become a blacksmith

Chapter 1-5

The population decreased again.
The servants finish their fixed-schedule report and then leave in a haste.
“There’s nothing better than tranquility and peace,” Father said without a worry.
“Indeed,” Mom said in agreement.

Last month, I asked about increasing the land reclamation with low hopes, but my request was instantly rejected.
As expected, the life of the Helan territory is its beauty. To get rid of that would be losing Helan’s identity itself.

At this rate, we’ll be losing our population one-sidedly.

I tried asking Moran-jii, but he gave the reply of, “Hmm, in the past this territory’s strength was in tourism, though,” which didn’t help at all.
“By the way, did you finish reading the first magic tome?”
“Yeah, I of course succeeded in the change of property, along with the application of such and the creation of vegetation.”
“Well then, here’s the second tome.”
The author is as expected, Chris Helan. Just who is this guy?

Lately, I’ve been having a sword instructor come to visit the house. During training, I was able to able to focus and get rid of all irrelevant thoughts.

As this point it is expected, but Kururi’s improvement is fast. Hmm, it’s a mystery how he was able to get so fat in the game.

“Lately, there have been mysterious sounds coming from the ground within the territory.”
I received such a troubling consultation from the population. My father, Toral Helan, seems to have no intention of dealing with this issue at all.
I had only listened to their plight with a slight interest, but ended up inspecting the problem on a whim.
Upon arriving at the location of the problem, there was certainly an odd sound coming from the ground.
There being a slight vibration in the ground seems to be another reason for their worries.

“About a year ago, it suddenly became like this. Out of luck, it happened away from the village, so there has been no damage at this point.”
Getting rid of the population’s dissatisfaction and worries is an important job.
Also, this will likely connect to avoiding falling into ruin in the future.

After investigating with the population for one or two hours, I suddenly realized something.
Wait, isn’t this a hot spring?

The source should be flowing underneath this spot. I heard that there were several similar spots within the territory. Perhaps, the sound is coming from all of the locations the source is flowing under.

I went ahead and took some money from my parents and hired around thirty workers.
I, myself, also grabbed a shovel and started working.
In front of the feudal lord’s son, everyone was unable to slack off and the job proceeded with a good efficiency.

“Uwah, hot.”
In the middle of working, one person’s voice attracted everyone’s attention. It looks like some hot water that spouted out of the ground got on his body.
At that moment, the ground shook with a large force and the sound coming from the spring became louder.

“Everyone, run!!”
At the sound of my voice, everyone ran away at once.

At a hair's breadth, the source burst out and a large, natural water fountain rose up.
As I thought, it was a hot spring.

Everyone stood stock-still from shock, but it quickly changed to a festival mood. After the fountain settles down, a natural hot spring is made and the surrounding flower garden put on a shine from the water.
To soak in the hot spring while observing the surrounding flower garden would give a feeling of extreme bliss.

I received a report after heading home, but apparently the depression was stimulated and all of the locations of the hot spring source within the territory burst out, and in one breath over ten hot springs were formed.
It's this.
This is it.
This is the key to the revival of the Helan territory!

"Father! The time for us to increase our visitors by using our territory's hot spring has come. Let us immediately start maintenance for calling customers into our hot spring!"
"Hot spring, huh. It seems one sprung up. Can just a hot spring turn into a selling point, Kururi?"
"I tried entering and thought such. That scenery of overlooking a flower garden will certainly pull people in!!"
"Eh, but a hot spring, huh.
Razan territory has gems, almost all skilled soldiers of the king's army come from Tarisuma territory. I'd like a cool selling point like that."
"Hot springs are the greatest, aren't they!?
Listen, father. Next month, make an appeal at the first prince's birthday party for our territory's hot springs. Call all the nobles you can to this land."
"Hmmm, I-I understand so let's stop this discussion."
"To start off, please give me money for maintenance."
"I understand, I understand, so don't press your father so much. You'll make it hard to breathe."
"Ah, sorry. It seems I really pressured you without noticing it."

In this way, I was left to maintaining the hot springs.

Looking at my father, I can't hope for much from him after all.
Alright, I will also go to the party and spread propaganda!
… Now that I think of it, I've never been to such a party. Hm, I wonder if I can mix in properly.
Also, the first prince is Arc Kudan, of the same age.
Gensou Academy's symbolic capture target, huh? Is it fine with me to interact with him?
I'm a little worried.

"You're losing your concentration," I was chastised by my sword instructor, Reel-sensei.
"Sorry."
"I don't know what this is about, but please share it with me. I believe that way you would be able to concentrate." As expected of a female teacher, the amount of kindness is different.
"Next month, I'll be attending the birthday party of the first prince, but that guy has the feeling of putting on cool air which I don't really like."
"By that guy, you mean the first prince?"
"Yeah, somehow it's like he's a type of person that I can't come to like."
"You seem awfully close though. If Kururi-sama were to give a little leeway, I think you'd be able to become friends."
"Is that so. I'm still worried, though."
"Well then, why don't you try giving him a present?"
"Ah, that's a good idea."

I end my training in the sword and immediately entered the smithy. Giving a large sword is no good, so I suppose I should make a short sword for self defense.
I started making it at once.
After leaving master's place I had basically continued practicing every day.
The finished short sword ended up being a great piece.
"Alright, At this level I'd even like to keep it for myself."

Chapter 5 character list

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Chapter 6

没落予定なので、鍛治職人を目指す

Botsuraku youtei nanode, Kajishokunin wo mezasu

Expecting to fall into ruin, I aim to become a blacksmith

Chapter 1-6

After reaching the royal capital, I accompanied my parents in a hectic series of greetings.
From greeting powerful nobles to those of a high position who serve the country, I was already exhausted before the party even started.

When night fell, we were finally guided into the assembly hall.
Of course, in full dress.
It being the first time for me to be in such a place, I had bought a new suit.
Different to my cute figure before, My height has increased and I've become a cool-looking young man who looks attractive in a suit.
I would look into a mirror with self-satisfaction, and upon finding another mirror I would repeat the same action of looking at myself in self-satisfaction.

"To all those gathered here.
Kudan Kingdom's first prince, Arc Kudan's entrance."
From the sudden voice from the host, everyone's gaze assembled.
At the point of everyone's focus, the prince emerged with a gaudy appearance, which everyone met with their applause.
While the passionate gaze from a group of ladies at the front of the assembly hall toward the prince caught my attention, the entrance of the leading part caused the assembly hall to become lively.

"Everyone, Thank you all for coming here today for my sake. Due to all of you, I was able to grow in good health until my fourteenth birthday.
My thanks comes directly from my heart.
I will end the stiff greetings here. Everyone, please enjoy the music and

beverages to your heart's content."

After the prince's greeting ended, he descended from the stage and was immediately surrounded.
While normally he would have thought to go out and greet the elite from his side, he is caught by those filled with ulterior motives.
He corresponds to them without making a single unpleasant face. How admirable.

My parents were enjoying themselves in their own way, talking to other feudal lords.

Huh!? Now that I think of it, the groups within the assembly hall have already been formed.
I thought this was something gradually made, but I suppose it's only natural for those who make an appearance every time to have an acquaintance.
This is bad! I've been completely left behind.

The party passes by moment by moment. Nobody is coming to greet me and somehow being alone has made me start to feel embarrassed.
I resolve myself and approach the prince to greet him, but…
I was overwhelmed by the group surrounding the him.

No, don't give up!
I looked at the prince from a spot slightly separated from the mob of people surrounding him.
If I can make eye contact, if I can just make eye contact with the feeling of "Ah, prince, congratulations," I can do it!!
I continued staring, but he would not meet my eyes.
While I miraculously made eye contact with the prince's best friend and personal attendant, Rial, it ended with him giving a face that said, "What is that guy doing?"

This is bad. Today is probably no good.
Rather, everyone's present is too good. With all of those precious gems brought out, giving him a short sword would be embarrassing.
If I made a single mistake, carrying a short sword while staring at the prince from a distance could get me mistaken for an assassin.

As one would expect, I gave up with that and searched for a person I knew from the assembly hall.

Someone, someone.
Hm? Thats?
Coincidentally, there was a face I recognized.
Huh, that's the second prince Rahsa Kudan, right?

His age is two below mine and is currently twelve.
Unlike the first prince, he was alone listening to the music.
The first and second prince are this different, huh?
Well, I came to see the prince, too, after all.
Since I was free anyway, I decided to approach him.
I poked his back once, Ei-!

"E-eh, W-what is it?"
"I am Kururi Helan."
"Eh, ah, it's nice to meet you, I am Rahsa Kudan."
"Do you know of the territory of Helan?"
"Yes, the one Toral Helan is the feudal lord of."
"We have hot springs there.. would you like to visit?"
"Hot springs? Would it be alright for someone like me to visit?"
"Of course!
The territory of Helan is beautiful and recently had some hot springs appear. It would surely make for a good trip."
"Then I'll take you up on your words. After preparing, I'll come right away."

I did it! I succeeded in soliciting one person!
"Well then, as a mark of our acquaintance, I will give you this short sword," I handed over the short sword I had been carrying. Now I can get away from being an assassin.
"This is well made, isn't it. It seems there are talented artisans in Helan."
"No, actually I made that."
"Wha-this!? Amazing! Could you please let me see the process of making it? "
"Sure."

The surrounding already made their groups so it was hard to join in, but I managed to get on good terms with the second prince. He said he'll come to the

hot springs, so it seems I had obtained a good result from this party.

Father's side was apparently no good.
What are you doing? I cross-examined him.

We returned to our territory and a few days later, I received a letter from Rahsa.
It was written that he would come within a week, but what an conscientious boy to send out a letter.
Within the territory, the rumor spread and a welcoming mood filled the air.
I heard the population making talk such as, "Hasn't it been since the founding of the nation since royalty has visited?"
In contrast to this calm atmosphere, a few days later, my father and I were experiencing a feeling alike having our stomachs gripped.

"Rahsa-sama is coming."
A messenger mounted on a fast horse reported without delay.
He will arrive immediately.
The population was lined up on the road preceding the mansion.The preparation of the mansion is perfect.
All that's left is to wait for the prince.

I can hear the population making a riot outside. It seems he has arrived.
All of our house's members go outside to receive him.
The carriage is awfully luxurious and there being large amount of people sparks my interest, but I decided to just go along with the mood.

"Toral Helan, isn't it?"
"Yes."
Someone addressed father from the front of the carriage.
"The queen has arrived. Make sure to show no discourtesy."

""Eeh-"" Wow, I made the exact same reaction as father.

As was said, the person who exited the carriage was the actual queen and Rahsa.
Hurriedly, everyone bowed their heads.

“Please raise your heads.”
I raised my face to the gentle voice of the queen.
What a beautiful person. She was so beautiful that my honest feelings came straight out.
Rahsa waving his hand by her side had a playful feeling, which was kind of cute.
“W-w-we-wel-welcome Harti-sama.”
Father doesn’t seem to be used to these sorts of things. He’s making a face like he’s about to vomit out his breakfast.

“I heard Rahsa, who doesn’t like to go outside very much, say that he’d like to go to Helan and decided to come along. Please, act just as you normally would, without humbling yourself so much. I’m looking forward to the hot springs.”

The queen wishes to observe the flower gardens, so father ended up leading them through a sightseeing route.

Rahsa and I go through the same route from the opposite direction.
He seems to be able to ride a horse, so we went about on horseback.
As expected of the second prince. While alone at the party, when outside he had three attendants always accompanying him.
“Thank you for inviting me, Kururi-san. Mom also seems to be enjoying the first trip she had in a long time.
“No, I didn’t actually believe I could get you to come.”
The attendants glances are scary and I can’t seem to talk normally.
“Kururi-san, are you talented at horseriding?”
“Well, a bit.”
“My attendants are heavily equipped with armor, weapons, and the like. Shall we increase our pace and throw them off?”
I thought him to be unexpectedly a bad kid. Though I did take him up on his offer.

It was probably also due to the difference in the quality of horse. We threw them off in an instant, and took off on a different route.
“The epitome of traveling is going around as you please, after all.” A stunning smile, but one tinged with mischief.
“Yeah, that’s exactly right.”

The place we turned off into was a place I was familiar with. I told him a variety

of little-known spots.
More than anything, he seemed to get hooked on the quality of the water.
I also boasted about the hot spring facilities that were being serviced under my orders. Rahsa happily listened to me speak. Ah, thank you, thank you.

“Kururi-san, be careful. We seemed to have approached the forest too much.”
Rahsa’s gaze was directed toward a wolf-formed monster.
Luckily it was not a group, but a single, aged monster.

“Kururi-san, Please leave this to me. I may be weak, but I am skilled in magic. Ignite! Fire!”
Rahsa’s released mana became fire and then covered the monster.
The monster’s back was covered with fire, but it became frenzied and came charging.
“How!?”
“Burn to nothing! Fire!”
This time, my mana turned into fire and covered the wolf. It stopped moving, then completely burned into nothing.
A strange smell filled the surroundings.

“Wow! To be able to use magic to this level.”
“Uh, yeah.” I often use fire magic after all.
“Your level in smithing high is and and you also possess the qualities to rule over the people. In addition, the power of your magic. Ah, please let me call you aniki”
“Um, sure.”
I accidentally went a bit too far, is this okay? Well, whatever.

Upon returning home, the queen had also returned. The attendants are quite angry, though.
“Oh, Kururi. Well then, Harti-sama, my son is more informed about the hot springs, so I will have him guide you.”
That old man ran away, huh.
“I have heard that there is a hot springs surrounded by a flower garden. I’m looking forward to it.”
“Yes, the lodge was just built, so the queen and Rahsa-sama are the first guests.”
“That’s lucky, right Rahsa?”
“Yes, mother.”

“Ah, beautiful.”
Upon reaching the hot springs, the queen was in a state of wonder.
The steam falls on the flower garden, creating a wondrous environment.
Upon entering the hot springs, you can see a dazzling bed of flowers. The sky is blue and the water is perfectly clear. This is the best hot spring within the territory.

“By the way, what sort of effects does this hot spring possess.”
Like I’d know!!
“The effects of the hot springs themselves are relief of the respiratory system. However this hot spring is special, due to being surrounded by a flower garden, the properties of the flowers soak into the hot spring. This has the effect of whitening skin and has a tremendous effect of the figure,” I said halfheartedly.

“Wow, what a brilliant hot spring. I’d like to enter as soon as possible.”
“The flowers have soaked into the hot spring, giving it a pleasant smell. After exiting, I believe you will notice, but the scent of flowers should remain on your body.”
“Amazing, I can’t wait anymore.”
Uwa-, she’s really biting at it.

After finishing the guiding, Rahsa and I entered the men’s side.
Women’s bathing takes a long time. After my body cooled down, the queen finally came out.
Just looking at her face filled with ecstasy, there was no need to ask to tell that she was satisfied.
She seemed to particularly like the scent, and in the end, the planned two day stay was extended to a week.

While I don’t know if the queen spread information of her own accord or if the fact that she visited was spread, next month, the number of visitors to our territory increased by fifty times.
They were mostly wives seeking improvements to their beauty, and for such a purpose had no hesitation on the use of their money. Money flowed into the territory non-stop.

Kururi Helan, at the mere age of fourteen, came to know of the fearsome power of beauty.

“Tou-san, about how much money does mother use on her appearance?”

“Fufu, it’s still too early for Kururi to know.”

Father’s face had a bit of a tragic expression, so I couldn’t ask any further.

Chapter 6 character list

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Chapter 7

没落予定なので、鍛治職人を目指す

Botsuraku youtei nanode, Kajishokunin wo mezasu

Expecting to fall into ruin, I aim to become a blacksmith

Chapter 1-7

Maria Kudan.
I am king's oldest daughter, with my younger brother Arc as the next king.
In other words, you could say I am the most powerful woman!

On this occasion, I have traveled incognito to the territory of Helan.
When I say incognito, it is because that, after hearing that the hot springs in Helan had a beautification effect on skin, I definitely wanted to enter; however, I do not think it is well for a country's princess to follow trends so easily.
Though I ended up not being able to wait and came anyway.

It was right for me to come.
My skin is silky and I felt healed by the scent of the flowers.
What a great hot spring.

While I am incognito, I do wish to give thanks to Kururi-san, who services the hot springs.
My mother and brother have also been in his care, so it's only natural.

Hm, just as I heard, the scent of flowers remains on your body even after exiting the hot spring .
If it's like this, the trip back should be comfortable.

"Head to Helan-dono's mansion. After giving my thanks, we will return to the royal capital."
"Understood."
After the servant replied, the carriage made it's way toward the Helan mansion.

“P-p-p-pr-princess!?”
The feudal lord came to greet me, but he’s awfully astonished.
Well, I am the most powerful woman, so it’s the natural reaction.

“I wish to give my gratitude to you for taking care of my mother and little brother and to Kururi Helan for his hot spring.”
“Um, Kururi is currently at Ronshu waterfall for the development of a summer resort.
Even though you came yourself, I am really sorry princess.”
“No, it’s not a problem.
Well then, I will come again at a later time to greet Kururi-san.”
“There’s really no need. However, we will welcome you at any time.”

“By the way, what exactly does the development of a summer resort entail?”
“I’m sorry.
While it is embarrassing, I don’t understand the things my son is doing all that well.
Um, I believe it was, the waterfall is a power sport, no, a power up, no, that’s it, he said something about it being a power spot.”

“P-p-p-po, power spot!?”
Whoops, I almost couldn’t hide my unrest.
“W-what is that?”
“Sorry. I don’t really understand myself, I think Kururi said something about sacred mysteries and your fortune improving.”

Sacred mysteries!? Fortune!?

“…Confirmation of the territories of our country is an important role of royalty. I will, in addition to touring your territory, will to go the waterfall and greet Kururi-san.”

“E-but, there aren’t any easily traveled paths such as a highway though.”
“I do not mind. This is a good chance to learn of the people’s troubles.”
“Aah, then I’ll get someone to guide you.”
“Thank you.”

“KURURI-SAMA!!” ”KURURI-SAMA!!” “KUURUURII-SAMA!!”

Ronshu waterfall is an extremely huge waterfall.
A servant came by on a fast horse, he yelled a few times in a loud voice and I finally noticed his existence.
“WHAT IS IT!?”
“THERE IS A VISITOR FROM THE ROYAL CAPITAL!!”
“WHO!?”
Even though we’re standing right next to each other, we’re yelling with all of our might.
“I HAVEN’T HEARD WHO IT WAS, BUT!! THIER HAIR IS CURLED!!
THEY SEEM TO BE VISITING INCOGNITO!! THE LORD TOLD ME TO INFORM KURURI-SAMA!!”
Hn? Curled hair? Who is that?

“KURURI-SAMA!! SURELY IT MUST BE A FAMOUS MUSICIAN FROM THE CAPITAL!! IT’S PROBABLY AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FOR THE HOT SPRINGS!!”
One of the fifty workers that I brought for development work called out to me.
He is, naturally, also yelling.
“WHY A MUSICIAN!!?”
“IT’S NOT ONLY MUSICIANS!! AMONG THOSE WHO ENGAGE IN THE FINE ARTS IN THE CAPITAL, CURLING THEIR HAIR IS IN FASHION!!”
“OH, IS THAT SO. BY THE WAY, WHO ARE YOU!!?”
“MY NAME IS LOTSON!! NORMALLY I’D BE WORKING IN THE FIELDS, BUT WHEN THERE’S THIS SORT OF TEMPORARY JOB, I TAKE IT!! BY THE WAY, I WAS ALSO THERE AT THE TIME OF THE HOT SPRINGS EXCAVATION!!”
“OH, I HAVE A FEELING YOU WERE THERE!! YOU WERE THE GUY THAT WORKED REALLY HARD!!”
“No, not at all.”
“WHAT!!? I CAN’T HEAR YOU WELL!!”
“NO!! IT’S NOTHING IMPORTANT!!”

“If it’s a famous musician, then father will deal with her, it’s not a problem.”
“WHAT WAS THAT, KURURI-SAMA!!? I COULDN’T PICK THAT UP!!”
“NO!! IT’S NOTHING!!
THE SURVEY HERE IS ALREADY DONE EVERYONE!! WE’RE GOING TO THE NEXT SPOT!!”

I was worried whether they could hear me due to the noise of the waterfall, but it seems to have reached the back by verbal message.

“It seems we will be reaching the waterfall soon.”
The servant gave me an explanation during their guidance.
I must confirm just what kind of thing a power spot is with my own eyes.

Ronshu waterfall.
When I come to approach it, I notice that it is extremely large.
The sound is too loud and the sounds from the surrounding are completely erased.
The spray flies around densely and makes it very easy to breathe.

This is a power spot?
Is something going to happen?
Or perhaps it is already happening?

Although somehow, by standing here I feel like power is boiling up within me.
Is this perhaps power!?
Let’s close our eyes for a bit and feel it.

“PRINCESS!!”
“PRINCESS!!”
“PRINCESS!!”
The servant seems to have yelled out a few times in a loud voice, but I didn’t notice at all.
Surely, this power spot was controlling my will!
Power spots are amazing.

“FROM THE NEARBY VILLAGER’S WORDS!! IT SEEMS THAT KURURI-SAMA HAS ALREADY LEFT THIS PLACE!! HE SEEMS TO HAVE LEFT TO THE NEXT DEVELOPMENT LOCATION!!
WILL WE FOLLOW HIM!!?”
“No, I will stay here for a bit longer.”
“HUH!!? WHAT WAS THAT!!?”
“I WILL STAY HERE FOR A BIT LONGER!!!
BY THE WAY, WHERE DID KURURI-SAN AND THE OTHERS GO!!?”

“THEY HAVE HEADED TOWARD KIRI LAKE!!
SOMETHING ABOUT SPIRIT WATER!! THEY SEEM TO BE HEADING THERE WHILE CHATTING AMONGST THE GROUP!!”
“S-s-s-sp-spirit water!?”
“WHAT!!?”
Ooops, my agitation was almost seen through.
“WH-WHAT COULD THAT SPIRIT WATER BE!!?”
“UM!! USUALLY IF WATER IS TOO CLEAN, FISH CANNOT INHABIT IT, BUT!! IT SEEMS THAT THE WATER IN THAT LAKE IS CLEARER AND CLEANER THAN ANYWHERE ELSE, BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE A WIDE VARIETY OF FISH LIVING IN IT AND IS LOCATED IN A SECLUDED REGION !!”

Secluded region!?

“IF WE CAN UNDERSTAND THE SECRET OF THIS WATER, IT MIGHT BE OF HELP TO OUR NATIONAL INTEREST!! WE’RE GOING IMMEDIATELY!!”
“UNDERSTOOD!!”

“Kururi-sama, It seems there is a villager that wants to make a report.”
Lotson called out to me when I was inspecting the lake.
There is a villager in waiting behind him.
“WHAT IS IT!!?”
“Eh-!?”
Whoops, I accidentally yelled in the same way as at the waterfall.
“What happened?” I asked in a gentlemanly manner.
“It’s the waterfall that Kururi-sama and the others were just surveying, but it seems a woman of a troubled expression was standing stock-still. It could be a suicide… .”

“Eh, suicide!?
That’s inconvenient. Over there is a main feature of the sightseeing route.
If any strange rumors sprout it’ll be bad.
Thanks for coming to inform me.
Here, this is for thanks.”
“Thank you very much.”
I’m thankful for this type of information.

It’s better for later on if I don’t spare anything in thanks.
I paid a silver coin to the villager for an information fee.

“Kururi-sama,” Lotson-san called out to me.
“That waterfall’s unbridled nature is its greatest appeal. However, couldn’t the amount of people feeling fear due to the noise be on the higher side?
If we constructed fencing and the like it would be hard for an accident to occur; also, more people would be able to enjoy sightseeing with a peace of mind.
Furthermore, if you placed a manager or such, those seeking to kill themselves wouldn’t approach.”
“Yeah, that’s good. Then let’s go make fencing at a later day.
Lotson-san’s kind of amazing, huh.
In the past, did you study something?”
“No, I am a man that has only performed farm work. The manager, if you’re fine with my younger brother, I can have him come by tomorrow.”
“Well then, I’ll leave it to your brother. Everyone, we’re going to the next spot!”
“Got it!”

“We should arrive at Kiri lake shortly.”
“I see.”
Right after a power spot is spirit water, huh.
Just how far are you going to let me enjoy this.
“Guhehehehe.”
Oops, how improper.

Kiri lake, a beautiful place isn’t it.
While there are trees surrounding the lake, the sunlight passes through gives a sense of peace of mind.
The lake doesn’t have a single wave, allowing the calm surface to spread out.
While a very wide lake, because it doesn’t have any undulation, you can see well into the depths.

Well then, how would one use spirit water.
Perhaps, as expected, you drink it.
I went ahead and took some in my hands and tried drinking it.

“It’s delicious! I think!”
I wonder what a fish that lives in water like this would taste like.
I looked back and the servant was out of sight.
Seeing that Kururi and the others are gone, he seems to have gone to get information again.

Fun. Even without a servant, I am the most powerful woman.
I can catch something like a fish with my own hands!!
I take off only the clothes that would absorb a lot of water and lightly stretch.
Sorya!!

Initiating dive!
Fish sighted!
Return to surface to breathe!
Dive underwater once more!
Approach the fish like an inorganic substance, a single chopping attack aimed at the gills!
Immediately surface!
“Fun, how easy!”

“Miss—! What, what, just what are you doing!?”
The servant that had just returned went into a panic.
“I wanted a bit of fish, could you please prepare it?”
“Sure, I don’t mind.
However! Princess! Please stop doing such things. At the time that something had happened to you, it would already be too late.”
“I’ll be careful from now on.”
“Ah, good.
Also, I have gained information on Kururi-sama and the others.
It seems they found a place to build a villa and are headed to Totapail’s hill”
“Understood!
By the way, perhaps that location has a special anecdote-”
“…In the past, a child that had fallen ill was cured of his after spending a night on that hill, .
However, this is merely at the level of a rumor. You can’t really believe such a thing. ”

“I understand.
We’ll go immediately.”
“M-miss, perhaps you believe in it?”
“Of course not.”

“Kururi-sama, a villager came again.”
“What could it be.”
Lotson led me to a villager that wanted to inform me of something.
“It’s about the lake Kururi-sama and the others had been inspecting just before, but the children were making a fuss that a woman was drowning. There aren’t many stories of people drowning in that lake, but please be careful.”

“Eh-again!?
It seems things aren’t going well for me today.
Thanks for the report. Here’s the tip.”
“Thank you very much.”

“How troublesome, I wanted to use that area for swimming.”
“Kururi-sama, I have another plan.”
“Nn, please do tell, Lotson-san.”
“That lake is certainly clean and easy to swim in. However, the deep areas actually come to be thirty meters deep. At this depth, it would be easy enough for an accident to happen.
Additionally, even during summer, the edge of the lake grows cold.
Since it is a lake with many types of fish, why not go ahead and make it exclusively for boats and have guests enjoy fishing?
By the way, my little sister is skilled at swimming; if you left the management of the lake to her, you would be able to almost eliminate drownings.
If you’d like, I could have her head out starting tomorrow.”
“Yeah, Lotson-san is amazing as I thought. Let’s go with that! I’ll leave the management of Kiri lake to your sister.”
“Thank you very much.”
“Would it be alright to go ahead and have Lotson-san be the manager of this villa location?”
“Thank you very much. I humbly accept.”

“I’ll be in your care.
Well then, let’s leave.
Everyone, we’re ending it here today.
After receiving your wages, you can go ahead and leave.”
“Got it!”

“There was a lot of stuff today that wore me out, but Lotson being here really saved me.”
“No, I’m extremely thankful that you trusted a job to my brother, sister, and I.”
“Not at all, now I have a feeling that the summer resort project will go well.”
“Ah, Kururi-sama, in front.”
“Ah! Curls!”
On the path back, we caught sight of a man with the an artisan’s appearance. As Lotson-san said, his hair was curled.
The carriage was luxurious; the visitor from the royal capital is this person without a doubt.

“I’ll go and give a greeting.”
“No, it looks that he’s relaxing after getting out of the hot springs. If Kururi-sama calls out to them, the other side will have to humble themselves. In this situation, we should simply see them off so that they will be able to leave comfortably.”
“That’s true. As expected of Lotson-san.”
“No, someone like me doesn’t deserve such praise.”

After returning home, having worked hard all day, I wanted to rest immediately, but father ambushed me.

“Kururi, from the royal capital-” ”Ah, I just saw them. the other side was also heading back, so I didn’t hold them up and just gave a bow and saw them off.”
“Ah, I see. That might be a good judgement. No, to Tou-san, it was a hectic day.”
“Nah, this side was also quite difficult.”
“Now that I think of it, apparently a savage was seen beating down a bear with only their hands, but were you okay?”

“Yeah, I didn’t meet them. There are some amazing people out there. Tomorrow, I’m going to Ronshu waterfall to lay some fencing. I’ll leave the funding to you.”
“Hoho, you’re earning a lot from the hot springs after all. Go ahead.”

Chapter 7 character list

← TOC →

I’m guessing there should be an actual term for water being too clean for fish to live in it, but only the mistaken version picked up by the servant was written in the text, so I don’t know what it is.

Chapter 8

没落予定なので、鍛治職人を目指す

Botsuraku youtei nanode, Kajishokunin wo mezasu

Expecting to fall into ruin, I aim to become a blacksmith

Chapter 1-8

“Well, well. It’s been awhile since you’ve come, young master.”
“Hey, Maron-jii.”
“Hoho. Lately you’ve been taking a lot of actions, huh. Your appearance is also becoming that of a sturdy young man. It’s as if you’re a different person from the time you were a child.”
As expected of someone such an age, he observes others well.

“I can’t deny it. Has this place regained a bit of its liveliness from when Moran-jii was young?”
“I didn’t reside here when I was young, but I don’t believe it was ever this lively. I believe that Helan is exactly in the middle of its most flourishing period.”
“Hm-, it’s the most prosperous right now, huh.”
Good, good. While letting your guard down is bad, this is certainly a good flow. If I don’t make any large mistakes from here on, there shouldn’t be a problem, should there?
If I can just manage that wife I haven’t met yet… .
Let’s think about this again next spring.

“For the first time in awhile, I’ve been thinking of reading a magic tome in the library. As expected, I concentrate best in here after all.”
“Is that so. While I am present, I shall maintain the best study environment for you.”
“Thanks.”
“The second magic tome’s contents get to be difficult, but what did you think, young master?”

“It’s certainly difficult. However, after reading it through four or five times, I’m starting to understand it.”
“That’s good. It seems you understand the basis of learning.”
“Where did you study at, Moran-jii?”
“I only engaged in self-education by rummaging through books, an old man with only knowledge. Though, I am also a lucky man to receive this post at my old age,” Moran-jii laughed.

“From handing over this series of tomes so easily, I thought Moran-jii to be quite knowledgeable, but for you to be self-instructed.
Well, I don’t actually believe everything you said, though.”
“Hohoho, please don’t tease this old man so much.”

After enjoying a brief conversation, Moran-jii and I returned back to our own work.
Moran-jii spends the whole day rummaging through books. Having finished reading all the books in the library, he has a grasp of where everything is. He stocks new texts for the library from the funds given to him, and reading through the books is both a source of enjoyment for him and his job.
I’ve heard that a country where the elderly are happy is a good country.
If you’d say that, then that would make Helan a good territory.

The contents of the second magic tome place the preservation of mana after separation from the body as it’s main point.
Both flames brought from property alteration and vegetation brought about from material change cannot be sustained for long periods of time after being separated from a source of mana.
However, this is only at my current level.

Cutting off the supply of mana, yet maintaining form. If you master this, you have finished the second magic tome.
I’ve understood the contents and succeeded at maintaining the vegetation I produced with material change.
The reason I came to the library today was to concentrate on the application section’s creation of magic tools.

In regards to the core used to make a magic tool, through material change, it’s possible to make a flower grow from a piece of iron; while through property

alteration, it’s possible to make a piece of iron that is always cold.
Well, that’s only in theory as I haven’t succeeded in it yet myself.

The item I brought today to become the tool’s core was an apple.
I’m going to add water’s property alteration.
Even though I say water, I’ll alter the mana to become infinitely close to honey and put that inside of the apple.
Due to having created the honey by mana, the apple was able to absorb it naturally.
It looks just like a normal apple.
After splitting apart the apple, mana flows out.
It seems that it still won’t turn out well.
I’m thinking that if this goes well, I’ll be able to make an extremely delicious apple.

In accordance to Moran-jii’s teachings, I should just keep attempting.
Moran-jii is immersing himself in the library.
And I continued pouring mana into apples.
“Young master, just what are you trying to do?”
“Ah, Moran-jii.” It seems he’s returned to reality.
“I’m in the middle of performing the application section’s magic tool creation.”
“With an apple?”
“Yeah, I wanted to try eating an extremely sweet apple.”
“Hoho, You do some strange things.
Usually, the creation of a magic tool is performed on a ring, sword, protective equipment, or something similar.
It is generally used by equipping the ring that was turned into a magic item and fighting, or by using a sword that has property change used on it.
This is the first time I’ve heard of someone turning food into a magic item.”
“Is that true!? What a waste.”
“Hoho, everyone has a different way of thinking.
In regards to this matter, young master is an irregular.”
“Moran-jii hasn’t ever tested it?”
“I haven’t. Absorbing the mana that one has produced. While it seems possible, it isn’t something many people would try.
First of all, the amount of magic users that can maintain mana outside of the

body aren’t very large. Young master is already quite the magic user.”
“Huh. In terms of magic only, I wonder how strong I am in combat.”
“Hm, being unable to sustain mana outside of the body, there are those who pursue only powerful property alteration and material change.
In terms of combat, you’ve still got a ways to go. Hohoho.”
I can’t ask about these kinds of things from anyone else. I suppose I should say, as expected of Moran-jii.
“Hmm.”
“I made an apple, but would you like to try it, Moran-jii?”
Around evening, below Moran-jii, who was working hard on the second floor, I had completed my creation on the first floor.
I had become able to almost perfectly store mana in the apple.

“I refuse. As an old man, I need to treat my body with care.”
“That’s a bit rude, Moran-jii.”
“Hoho, well here’s the third volume.”
That damned Moran-jii swiftly ran away to the recesses of the library after throwing the book to me.

Though I say that, when it came to eating it I also became scared.
“Alright, let’s eat it.”
I proclaimed such many times, however.

It can’t be helped. Since it’s come to this, I’ll have to use that hand.
There’s a perfect person for poison tasting.
“Father.”
“What is is, Kururi?”
I found father relaxing in front of the fireplace.
“I picked an apple. It’s very sweet.
Tou-san is carrying a lot on his back with the position of the feudal lord, so I picked it with the desire for you to take in the proper nutrition so that you don’t collapse.”
“Ah, Kururi. You’re really a great child.
Now that I think of it, after climbing to take that apple three years ago, you’ve changed a bit after falling.
After that, whenever I saw an apple-” “That’s fine, eat it.”

“A-ah, I’ve got it.”

After passing over the apple, father seemed to hesitate to take a large bite out of it.
He glanced over at me to read my mood, but gave up and bit into it.

“Nn!!! Delicious!!
What a deep composition! Although the apple is still immature, the fruit’s hardness and acidity remain while holding a sweetness that can only be described as perfect. In addition, it strangely also possesses a refreshing taste! It’s as if the sweetness is mixed from a variety of sources, possessing a rich flavor, the nectar melting inside of your mouth creates what can only be called a supreme natural soup! While I had been snacking earlier and I was full, without any concern to that, this apple directly penetrates my stomach! My mouth makes a fuss of, ‘Just one more, just one more!’ At this point, speaking of this taste by mouth reaches its limit—!!!”
“…”
What’s up with this guy. Resisting the urge to punch him in the stomach, I left the room.

Is it that good?
In the end, father pestered me for more, so I made some more for him until he calmed down.

After nightfall, I exited the bath and entered my room.
In front of me is a single apple filled with mana.
I already at dinner so I honestly didn’t feel good about it, but father said that much after all.
Only one bite.
“Delicious!! The deep sweetness spreading out in the inside of my mouth… .”
Whoops, I almost repeated what father did.

Well then, let’s sleep. I also have a lot of things I want to do tomorrow.
Father said that he felt his fatigue go away after eating it, but I don’t currently have such a feeling. Perhaps there was a difference in production?
Well, let’s not think too deeply about that. I’ll end up not being able to sleep.
…Strange.
My body is hot. It feels heated up like after going on a run, and my mind is in a

state of arousal.
Why!?
There's only one possibility. It's the apple!!
I jumped out of bed and, restraining the urge to shout, observed my body.
Mana is overflowing.
It's as if a flood of mana is occurring within my body.

If I ate the magic tool that I put my own mana into, what would happen? If you think logically, this is the only result.
It's not just mana. I feels like I could lift up this bed right now. I have a feeling like that!!
"Yo-to," I really lifted it up.
I restrain the feeling to shout again and put the bed down gently.
Right now I am unrivalled! I'm being placed into that kind of feeling.

I can't sleep anymore today. I might as well use this opportunity. This condition, that I will call super mode, I will use for the benefit of the population.

Due to the visitors to the territory, the citizens are becoming affluent, and the amount of immigrants have increased largely lately.
The problems of people increasing are always market price and the amount of food.
I've decided on the area for the new residential area. I also know that there is water passing by underground.
As such, I can build even just a well in one night.
"Uooooooooooo!!" I've got this–!!

"Little brother, why do you think we, the famous thieves 'Dark Shadow' have come to such a backwater place as Helan?"
A suspicious man wearing a black mantle opened his mouth.
"Dunno."
A man with a large stature answered; this side also wore a black mantle.
"Well, let's explain this time's job."
"Ah, please."
The two were making quite a dangerous conversation, but the spot is a bar. The sort of person to listen in on the two wasn't present.
"This Helan territory is the only place with a break in it's history.

I don’t know the reason. However, before that gap, all records list this place as a deserted and desolate land.”
“This land filled with flowers was desolate?”
“It was. The current Helan has a figure completely unlike that in history.”
“Please continue.”
“You know that the first king, Marley Kudan had a strong love for this land, right?”
“Of course.”
“Those feelings so were passionate that he desired to die on this land.
I’ll enter the main point. This time’s target is the first king’s hidden treasure.”
“The yet unfound first king’s treasure. You say it’s here?”
“In accordance with the records erased from history, the king’s directly appointed historian, Moran, went out of his way to live here. And what guarantees it’s here is the actions of the feudal lord’s son, Kururi Helan.”
“Ah, if I’m not mistaken, the son of the lord that dug up the hot springs.”
“That’s right, that bastard seems to have hired people to investigate Helan. There’s some information that he was digging deep into the ground himself the other day.”
“You’re saying that he already has an idea of where it is?”
“I wouldn’t say that. There’s not enough of a pattern to his actions. He probably got some information out of Moran or is acting as Moran’s pawn.”
“Have you investigated the location, brother?”
“Of course. I don’t have certainty, but well, if I fail, we can just try again.”
“Where is it? Hurry up and tell me.”
“People unexpectedly don’t catch notice of what’s close to them. The treasure in the Helan estate!!”
“Brother, that seems to be the Helan estate.”
Two men snuck in the Helan estate from outside. at the dead of night.
“There aren’t even any guards, huh? Just what you’d expect of a backwater feudal lord.”
“Where are we entering from?”
“There’s a lot of treasure, you know. It has to be underground. Find a door leading below.”
“Understood.”

“It’s just as you said, brother.”
“For there to be a door leading underground outside of the mansion… .”
The two didn’t take too long in their search. This was to be expected from a pro’s job.
The older brother opened the lock and the two descended the stairs underground.

Their eyesight in the darkness must have been good, as the two didn’t need a lamp.
“It looks to be a storage room.”
“It seems so. There should be a hidden door.”

This also didn’t take much time to find.
There is no futility in the two’s work.

“I found it, but the amount is odd.” Behind the hidden door was a large space with a single small wooden box that stood out.
“What is this, brother!!?”
“It means this isn’t it. Only that. Don’t worry so much about a failure.
Well, let’s go ahead and take this.”
“A book?” The bulky younger brother said loudly.
What appeared from the box in front of the two was simply one copy of a book.
“Shit, let’s leave, brother.”
“Ah.”

The two were also quick on their retreat.
It’s unnecessary to stay longer than needed. This was one of the reasons they have never fell through on a job before.

“Wait right there!”
Today isn’t going well for them. Not only was there no treasure, but after exiting the cellar, they were spotted by a person.
“Che-, found, huh?”
“My senses are really clear after blacksmithing. As I thought, that simple work has a good effect on the mind or perhaps it’s the rhythmical sound of metal crashing together.”
“What is this guy saying… Nn?
Isn’t he Kururi Helan?”

“Since I heard something, I came and found two rats. This Kururi Helan will apprehend you!”
“Brother, isn’t this guy’s tension a bit odd?”
“It is!! I ate another magic apple as a test today and ended up like this! I can’t fall asleep, so I’ll be your opponent!”
“Brother, leave this place to me. Go on ahead.”
“I won’t let you do that! Water magic! Water bog!!”
Along with Kururi’s voice, a swamp appeared at the two men’s feet.
“I created a swamp underfoot with water magic. You can’t run away with this. This swamp has no bottom, so your life will be in danger!!
I’ll go call the guards, so if you behave, you’ll go to prison and if you struggle, you’ll go to the other world!”
“Dammit.”
Ah, this is crazy. I used up a lot of mana with a pair of thieves as an opponent, but I’m still overflowing with magic.
It seems what the pair of thieves stole was a single book.
They handed it over immediately, so it seems they don’t really want it.
‘Magic tome 5’
Oh! This is one of the books of the series Moran-jii has be lending me.
See, the author is Chris Helan.
For now, let’s place it in my room.

Well, my parents not waking up even with all this fuss worries me, but I’ve handed over the thieves to the guards. Shall I go and dig another well?
However, I shouldn’t eat the magic apple for a while. The fatigue I feel tomorrow will be extremely high.

The next day at the bar.
“Did you hear? Yesterday, Kururi-sama caught the thieves ‘Dark Shadow’,” A single man said.
“Ah, this morning the information broker spread it. It seems there’s a bounty being paid by the royal capital,” The man to his right said after drinking down his alcohol.
“Lately, there’s been only good news and the town is cheerful. Things are good, huh,” the man to the left continues.
“Kururi-sama will make a good feudal lord. While Kururi-sama is here, this land

will be tranquil.”
“That’s true. By the way, there’s something that’s been bothering me, though.”
The two gave a reaction to the doubt of man in the middle
“What?”
“According to the information broker, it seems that the Dark Shadow pair was caught while leaving by Kururi-sama after barely taking anything.”
“That big-shot thief group barely took anything!?”

… .

“Perhaps, the feudal lord’s household has nothing of value?”
“You certainly don’t hear any talks of luxury.”
“I’ve seen the crotch of the lord’s pants have a tear in them once. The man himself made a unconcerned face while wearing them.”
“Hm, I feel like that’s a different discussion. That’s a problem of the lord’s nature.”
“What about this? It seems Kururi-sama used to be fat, but now he’s that skinny.”
“Hey, hey. They surely couldn’t be troubled in food, right? It’s the lord’s household, right!?”
“I suppose that’s true. But I’ve had the experience of working with Kururi-sama before.
His hands I saw that time were extremely rough and the muscles of his upper body weren’t the kind you could put on in a short about of time. That was the body of a man that does heavy labour every day.”
“Hey, is that true? But due to the hot springs, the population is thriving. Aren’t the taxes going up along with that?”
“The thing is, the tax hasn’t been raised one bit. In addition, Kururi-sama has been putting more and more money into land development lately. Perhaps, in a place we can’t think of, the lord might be suffering some outrageous hardships.”
“Damn it, I can’t believe only we’ve been enjoying the benefits. After this, I’m going to try talking to the company head.”
“That’s right. We have to repay Kururi-sama!”
“Exactly! That’s what we call Helan’s chivalrous spirit!”

Hakushun!
“Uu, I might have caught a cold from working every night.”
“Haha, Kururi’s not managing his body properly, huh. Otou-san is working at his job hard, but is healthy as you can see.”
“Ah, as expected, Tou-san. Which reminds me, Kaa-san seemed to be looking for you in an angry mood.”
“Eh-!? Well then, I’ll be out for a bit.”
“Dear!! The tourists and increasing and the population is affluent, so why isn’t the money coming into our household increasing!?”
“T-that’s, it will surely start increasing from now.”
“Dear! Are you not managing the taxes properly!?”
“O-of course I am. … of course I am!”
“Is that so, then it’s fine.”
“… . Well then, shall I go to the hot springs.”

Chapter 8 character list

← TOC →

Chapter 9

没落予定なので、鍛治職人を目指す

Botsuraku youtei nanode, Kajishokunin wo mezasu

Expecting to fall into ruin, I aim to become a blacksmith

Chapter 1-9

“This fruit you call a mandarin orange is really delicious.”
When winter arrived, Rahsa came to visit.

The weather is cold, so we are eating mandarin oranges in front of the fireplace.
“I’m glad I made it in time for winter’s harvest. I managed to have it appear on the market, too.”
“How did you make this mandarin orange thing?”
“I made a seed with magic. Afterwards, I planted it in soil and cultivated it in the same way as normal produce.”
“A seed with magic… as expected of aniki.”

Rahsa was in somewhat excited mood while eating mandarin oranges.
I eat the oranges piece by piece, but Rahsa eats them whole.
His cheeks swell out, making a cute face, but since it’s fun to watch I won’t point it out.

“Aniki will also be entering Elenowar Academy soon, right?”
“Nn, it has finally come.”
“Are you unhappy about it?”
“Should I say unhappy? Or afraid perhaps? I don’t really understand how I feel.”

“If it’s aniki, it’ll be fine.
By the way, my brother Arc is also enrolling, too.”
“Yeah.” I knew.

“Also, the prime minister’s daughter, Eliza-san, is also enrolling.”

“Yeah.” I also knew that.
That person is my future wife after all.

“Furthermore, the first successful applicant from the commoners has appeared after ten years. We receive a pass from our lineage, but it seems the largest barrier for commoners is the entrance exam. It was a really skilled person. I believe their name was… .”
“Iris Palala.”
“That’s it, it’s Iris-san. Aniki knew, huh?”
“Yeah, from quite before~.”
“There are also other children of other such immensely influential people; a group of people are already calling it something like the golden generation.”
“More importantly, I feel anxious about leaving the territory. I wonder if it would it be okay to leave it to Tou-san.”
“It’ll surely be fine. The people of Helan are dependable and will surely provide their support to Toral-san.”
“It’ll be nice if that’s the case.”
I think I’ll have Lotson check in every once in awhile.

“Aniki, you’re thinking about too much. With aniki’s talent, you’ll surely be successful in leading a fulfilling life at Elenowar Academy.”
Rahsa says these kinds of things in a natural and frank manner.
It makes me want him as a real brother.

“That’s true.
The mandarin oranges have run out, I’ll go out and pick some more.”
“Ah, I’ll come too.”

“Uu-, cold.” ”Yeah, it’s cold.”
“When it turns summer you should come to Helan. I’ll let you eat something called watermelon.”
“Yes! I’ll be looking forward to it.”
The two went to pick oranges while huddling together, a quite commonplace day in the cold winter.

At the time the snow began to melt and the land of Helan started to breathe.
One month before the time for admission, I decided to leave Helan.

From here to the academy is roughly four to five days by carriage.
It is stationed in a remote remote region in order for students to be able to devote themselves to their studies.
While it's fine if you arrive one week before admission for the competency test, if you arrive at the last moment, it seems that a large line is formed near the academy. The basis for my early departure is that I don't want to wait in that line and it's good to arrive early so as to get used to the environment.

"Kururi-chan, you've grown so handsome."
Mother is shedding tears over seeing her son off.
"Kururi, study to your heart's content and leave everything about the territory to your father."
Father thrust out his chest, but nothing worries me more than this.

"Well, I'll be going."
I finish the greetings at the minimum and entered the carriage.
I called out to the servant and the horse dashed out.

At the academy, a dormitory system is used.
Since the school and meal expenses come from the country, there's barely anything to cause a financial burden.
Even so, all of the nobles carry quite the sum of money for the sake of their pride.

I also happened to be carrying quite a bit.
I didn't have the intention to carry so much, but in the beginning I prepared some for in case of trouble.
Next, if there's something I want, I want to be able to buy it and I also thought that while socializing with friends, money would be necessary.
One is able to return during summer and winter vacation so I'll be able to replenish my funds at that time.
Because of this I didn't take much money.

However, on the morning of departure I was told by the population, "Since we've been earning so much money lately," and forced me to take money for my use. The amount wasn't small either.

I tried to refuse, but my father told me to accept it. Father seemed bigger than

usual, but it was probably just my imagination.
I gave my thanks to the population and finished my goodbyes with my parents, and we arrive at the present.
Which reminds me, Rahsa said that he wanted to see me off, but since it would be bad if I were favored over the first prince I refused.
As expected, I don't have the guts for it.

While it is a trip of four or five days, I packed a lot of books so I wouldn't get bored.
Other than that, I also did a preliminary investigation of famous sightseeing areas and am thinking I will look at them when I pass nearby.
And unexpectedly, I discovered that my father is quite the gourmet before leaving.
He gave me a traveling map with the places of delicious restaurants marked point by point.
"With this, your boring trip should become slightly pleasant," he said.
It was also the first time my father ever did something like a father.

At any rate, a trip doesn't give me a bad mood.
While I do almost no talking with the servants, just by staring blankly out the window, landscapes unknown to me pass before my eyes one after another.
It is all fresh to me. These are all the words needed for expression.
With this, even if nothing happens for four or five days I shouldn't get bored.

It should have been around five hours after leaving the house.
The sun had reached straight overhead and the atmosphere was dry with a pleasant wind blowing.
In such a situation, a servant called out to me.
"Kururi-sama."
Nn? Now that I think about it, we should arrive at the first restaurant that father wrote down soon.
Perhaps we've already arrived?
"What?"
"It seems there's a woman carrying a large bag ahead."
While I thought it to be just a common sight, I stuck my head out the window.

While there seems to still be some distance, there was a woman sitting down

in the shade.
Did her condition worsen from staying in the sun too long?

With the nearing of the carriage, the figure became more and more clear.
And in proportion to that, my heart rate quickened.

There's no mistake.
That beautiful black hair, those composed features that seem to give you a feeling of peace, clothing undeniably fitting of a commoner!
It was at the point that I could not be mistaken. Iris Palala was sitting there.

For some reason I hid inside of the carriage.
It is alright for a sub-character like me to meet the heroine here?
No, there's no way it is!
"What's wrong, Kururi-sama?" A servant urged me.
Perhaps her condition has truly worsened and is resting. Is it really okay for me to abandon this frail lady?
Of course not!
I resolve myself and replied, "I'll try calling out to her."
"Understood."
The servant gradually reduces the speed of the carriage and brings it to a stop in front of Iris.

"Is there something the matter?" I asked gently as to provoke as least caution as possible.
"I got a bit tired from walking. Please pay no mind to me."
Since we will become classmates after this I can't just say,'I see, bye!!'

"Perhaps you are headed to Elenowar Academy?"
"Yes, you did well in figuring that out."
"It was just by gut feeling. I am also in the middle of heading to Elenowar Academy so, if it would be fine with you, would you like to ride with me?"
"No, you don't have to worry about me. I will head there on foot. It is for that purpose that I set off so early.
Thank you for going out of your way to show consideration towards me."

By walking, huh. That'll take half a month.
Though there should have been the method of getting a merchant to let you ride

in their carriage.
Now that I think about it, in the game, Iris came from quite a poor family. I increasingly can't overlook this.

"Please don't say such a thing. They say that you should treat fellow travelers with compassion, don't they? My name is Kururi Helan. I am of the house of the feudal lord of Helan." For now, I tried making an appeal that I'm not a suspicious person.
Huh, she's staying quiet.

"…, Helan. That Helan with the hot springs, right!?" Iris rode out her body while asking.
"Y-yes. Have you visited before?"
"No, but I've read an article from an information magazine about the hot springs being surrounded by a flower garden enough to open a hole in it!!
It's my dream to enter Helan's hot springs!!"

After I said, "Let's talk more about the hot springs," she entered the carriage with no resistance.
You have to live in the academy's dorm, so no matter what, you end up with a lot of luggage.
This is the same with Iris, as she had a large bag, bursting at the brim.
Carrying such a large amount of luggage for one month, huh. It would we difficult even for a man with confidence in his strength, wouldn't it?
As expected, having her ride the carriage was the correct choice. If I had passed her by like that, my heart would be hopelessly in pain due to my conscience.
I'm glad I managed to get her to ride.

The carriage is proceeding smoothly and Iris also got on with me. This trip is going well.

"My dream is that in the future, I'm going to earn lots of money and take my younger brothers, sisters, and my parents to the hot springs surrounded by flower gardens in Helan," Iris said, her eyes sparkling.
"That is an honor. But there is no need for it to be so far in the future. As a classmate, I invite you to come stay at any time."
"That's no good. A dream is something you must achieve yourself."
"That's also true."

“Kururi-san is also entering this year, right? If I’m not mistaken, I read in the information magazine that you’re the person who dug up the hot springs.
It’s an honor to be a classmate to such an amazing feudal lord.”
“No, no, no, it’s not such a big thing.”
Moreso, you, who have the potential to be married to the prince, I see to be an extremely amazing character.

“Thank you for going out of your way to let a commoner as I to ride this carriage with you. I will return this favor with certainty.”
“Don’t worry about it. Now I won’t have to spend four days lonely by myself, so you’ve actually helped me.”
I will have you return this favor whenever I fall to ruin by any means.

“I was worried what the people at a nobles’ school would be like, but from looking at Kururi-san, I get the feeling that I should be able to think more positively about it.”
“I seem to have done a good thing.
Well then, let’s talk about our hot springs.”
“Yes, please!”
As always, her eyes are sparkling. This gives some worth to the conversation, doesn’t it?

Just as I thought, I can tell she has beautiful features from looking at her face from nearby.
I saw the queen before, but Iris seems more beautiful due to her youthfulness.
It’s not strange that the prince and others would fight over her with these looks.

“You might have read the information magazine already, but Helan’s hot springs have an unparalleled effect on the whitening and beautification of skin.”
“I see, I see.” Iris was very interested.
“The flowers’ properties make it that way, but very recently, something amazing was found. One of our excelling citizens, Lotson-san, found that even drinking the hot springs’ water has a good effect on the body.”
“It that true!? That’s the first time I’ve heard that!”
“Right? This has just started gaining popularity lately, so the information should spread throughout the kingdom soon.
After which, the tourist will increase and increase! And my territory will profit

and profit!”
“Amazing-! Maybe it would have been better if I hadn’t asked. I can’t help but want to go now.”
“If you want to, come any time. I’ll show you the best hospitality.”
“Yeah. Thanks!”

We talked about the hot springs endlessly together while in a state of excitement.
I accidently got full of myself and bragged about the territory, but she listened to it all.
As I thought, the woman the prince would fall for is of a different calibre!

“Kururi-sama, you should be able to see the shop that Toral-sama wrote down shortly.” A servant’s voice interrupted the conversation.

“Ah, we’ve arrived already, huh?”
I lost track of time for a bit while talking with Iris.
I was able to learn the true benefit of having a traveling partner.

“Iris, let’s exit the carriage and have lunch. A delicious restaurant father recommended to me is just over there.”
“No, I don’t have much money after all. Also, I’m carrying enough preserved foods for the trip to the academy.”
“I will, of course, treat you.
Come, come, please listen to my boastful speech about the territory of Helan while eating. This can be the payment for you food.”
“No, I’m really fine.”
Iris shook her head.

“While I’m very thankful you allowed me to ride your carriage, I can’t let you go so far as to treat me to food as well.
With all of this, my debt to you will grow too big and I won’t be able to repay you!”

I laughed a bit to this. This sense of values is what makes the prince and the others fall for her, huh
If I end up having a girl I fall for, I’ll take this as a reference.

“Let’s go.”

“It’s really fine.” We pulled each other’s arms for a while, but to no conclusion.
If it has come to this, let’s just say it.
Is it alright to say, though?
Rather, this way of meeting itself is irregular. I’ll go ahead and do as I like!!

“It can’t be helped. I have an important talk for you. It’s a conversation for only here, so I want to ask that you talk of this to no one else.”
“What? What is it all the sudden?”
Due to the change in my behavior, Iris made an anxious face.

“Your life at the academy might not end up being a pleasant thing.
This is only a possibility.
However, you will surely experience various forms of undeserved discrimination.”
“Yes, I have a vague idea about that. But I’ve decided that I’ll won’t lose to it and try my best.
My end goal is to find a good job and support my family after all.”

Good!! What a good kid!!

“A-and, that person that discriminates against you, though… . A witch with blue eyes will be the culprit, I think… .”
“You think?”
“No, well, that person’s discrimination towards commoners is fierce, so I think their actions toward you will become unpleasant. And that person is actaully… .”
“Actually?”
“A person that I cannot rid my connection to… .
In short, that person will cause you a lot of trouble, so I will compensate for that amount!
It’s granted that if those close to you cause trouble for others, you should take care of it, right!?
That’s what this is. Please let me atone for it as much as I can right now!”
“Nn, It was a vague argument and I couldn’t really understand.”

“Well, whatever. Anyway, we’re going to go eat!!”
“I won’t go. Any further than this and it’s too inexcusable to Kururi-san I won’t be able to face you after this.”
“You’ll be able to fine!” I pulled Iris’ hand with all my strength.

“I won’t be!” Iris resisted franticly.
“I am eating delicious food by myself while Iris is eating preserved foods. Something like that won’t be an enjoyable trip, right?”
“I am fine. You’ve already helped me plenty!”

“You two, hurry up and go,” the servant’s calm voice ended up tug-of-war.
“Hey, we’re going.”
Iris finally gave up and came along.
“This really is delicious, Tou-san!”
I’m sorry for doubting you one bit, father!

Chapter 9 character list

← TOC →

Chapter 10

没落予定なので、鍛治職人を目指す

Botsuraku youtei nanode, Kajishokunin wo mezasu

Expecting to fall into ruin, I aim to become a blacksmith

Chapter 1-10

When Iris had just joined me in the carriage, she was reserved and precautious. She would barely talk into any detail about her household, but by spending four days together, her wariness naturally disappeared and she talked about her personal history to me.

It seems that Iris' father was a blacksmith; however, when Iris turned twelve, he fell sick and left this world.
After that, with her mother, three younger sisters, and two younger brothers, they made their livelihood by working in their house's field.
However, that was a strained lifestyle and one without any form of luxury.
Iris told me how she was worried about whether her sisters and brothers would be fine countless times.
It seems that's really all she's thinking about.

Even in our territory, the amount of households living off of farming is large. However, as long as there is no sort of calamity, you should have some surplus in money.
According to Iris, the tax within her territory is heavy, which puts pressure on their lifestyle.

"Well then, you should come to Helan. Our tax isn't that high and the territory is growing more and more prosperous. You'll surely be able to live well there."
"That's a pleasant offer, but I can't throw away my homeland so easily."
I got rejected.
Certainly, it's not something you can decide so easily.

It seems there are also bad feudal lords in this world, while my father shines in comparison.

It seems that due to Iris excelling at her studies from the time she was a child, she was persuaded into taking the entrance exam for the academy by her mother.
At first she refused, but in the end she decided to take the exam due to her mother's enthusiastic persuasion and imagining herself supporting her family in the future.
In the time between working on the farm, she learned fundamental education, magic, and swordplay, the three subjects for the exam, all on her own.
I thought this to be amazing perseverance and character.

"And then, when I passed I was really happy, but when it came time to leave home, I felt really lonely. Even now, I'm not sure if I made the right choice."
"I was also worried when leaving the territory.
'My father is like a messenger of peace, so won't he get tricked?' and such. But he's surely doing fine. Iris' brothers and sisters are definitely doing better than Iris thinks."
"Nn, It would be nice if they were."
"They definitely are."
"… Yeah!"

She seems to have recovered some of her spirit.
Luckily, the weather is good.
It would be a waste to continue with such a dark conversation.
I might as well tell her one of my father's grand stories to make her feel better.

"It's seems there's a fuss going on outside," Iris cut me off and said.
"It looks like trouble," a servant reported with a sullen expression.

We exited the carriage and confirmed the situation.

There is a carriage that a merchant would seem to use stopped in the road.
What could be thought to be the whole crew were assembled outside.

"Sorry, do you think you could open up the road?"
I called out to the men.
"Ah, sorry. I'll move the carriage immediately."

A slightly chubby man hurriedly gave out orders to his subordinates.
There is a lot of luggage and the carriage is larger than the norm.
Due to the narrow highway it seems moving it is taking a bit of effort.

“Just what happened?” I asked in pure interest.
“You see, we were delivering a tribute to the royal family, but the permit for entry into the royal castle was taken is a bit of trouble.”
“By trouble you mean?”
“Some monsters suddenly attacked.
Luckily, there were no injuries and nothing of a high price was damaged, but unluckily, the entry permit was taken.”

“That is quite unlucky, huh.
I tried asking, but it’s wasn’t a very interesting conversation.
Hurry up and get out of the way.

“You seem to possess an expensive sword, but perhaps you engage in the elimination of monsters?”
“No, I carry this for self defense upon outings.”
The scabbard and sword are both handmade. His eyes are correct for judging them as expensive. A skilled merchant without a doubt.

“Ah, is that so. If you hunted the monster, I was thinking of paying you a gold coin.”
What a rude guy. I am, for the time being, a noble. My heart cannot be shaken by a mere gold coin.
“Is that true!?”
Out of my expectations, Iris bit at it.
“Will you really pay a gold coin?”
“Of course! If the two of you go, I’ll give you two gold coins.”

Iris is looking this way with watering eyes, seemingly about to cry.
I can’t refuse if it’s like this.
“Let’s do it.”
“Yes!”

“Two wolf-formed monsters attacked us.
We found its nest at a place five hundred meters into the forest. Since we aren’t

capable of fighting, that's all the assistance we can provide you."
"Understood."
We received a simple explanation and headed back to our own carriage.

"Iris, what's your ability in magic?"
"I passed the exam for Elenowar, but this is my first battle.
Ah! But I use magic normally everyday, so I might be pretty good… ."
Hmm, if I remember correctly, Iris possesses excelling sense in both magic and swordplay.
While it is her first battle, it's a weak monster so it should be okay, perhaps?
In the worst case it'll be fine if I follow her up.

"Do you have a weapon?"
"Yes, I'm carrying a sword for the swordplay lessons."
"Well then, equip it and let's go."

Just as the merchant said, we spotted two wolf-formed monsters in the forest at about five hundred meters southward.
We're taking quite the distance so they don't pick up on our smell.
Honestly, I can take both of them out by myself at this distance.
I'd like to finish it like that since it has a low chance of danger.

However, a problem is born after I take them out by myself.
I'm sure Iris will refuse the reward.
She'll definitely say, "I didn't contribute, so I cannot take any money."
"Iris, can your magic hit from this location?"
"Um, it's probably no good. There's too much distance."
As expected, huh.

Alright, if that's the case then there's only one strategy.
"Iris, I'll take one down from here with my magic. The other will notice and come attacking, so can I leave you to intercept it?"
"Yeah, I think I can do it."
"Alright!"

I produce some mana and add water's application of property change and ice's physical alteration.
What I formed in my palm was an arrow made of ice.

While it’s the first time I’ve made it, it’s pretty good.
I go further, creating an explosive gust with mana and shoot the arrow.
The arrow goes straight through a monster while making the sound of cutting air.
The monster died without making a sound.

“Great!”
“Amazing!”
“Well then, the other one is coming.”

The second one goes into a frenzy after it’s partner was killed and charges over.
Iris also produced mana, changed it to fire, and released it at the monster’s feet.
While it’s not enough firepower to take it down, the aim was to kill the force of its charge.
Just as intended, the power behind the charge decreases and the faltering monster fell to Iris’ sword.

What amazing agility.
The monster’s head beautifully flew off.
Smooth and quick. But I think I heard a strange sound.

“You did it, Iris.”
“…”
“What’s wrong?”

Iris is hanging her head. For some reason, she’s not expressing any happiness at all.
“The sword, thesword, br, broke.”
“Haha, for it to break in one strike, you must have had a defective product pushed on you, huh?”

“The sword that Okaa-san, Okaa-san pushed herself to buy for meeeeeeee, uaaaaaaaaaaahhhh.”
Eh!?
She’s seriously crying!!

“If it’s a sword, I’ll give you my new one. See, don’t cry.”
“Even though, eventhoughOkaa-sanworkedsohardtobuyit, uaaaaaaaaaahhhh.”

Ah, so that's what it is.
I finally understood Iris' feelings.

"Don't worry about that!
That sword's still fixable. When we get to the academy, I'll repair it for you."
"Really? It can really be fixed?"
"Really, really. Rather, I'll make even cooler and more durable than before."
"No, it's fine like it is."
"Yeah, I got it. After we grab the permit, let's return to the highway."
"Yeah."
The permit was made with leather. Because of that, it was taken by monsters, huh.

I retrieved the permit and then observed Iris' state.
Her eyelids are red from crying.
It's not as if I was the one who said we'd exterminate the monsters, nor did I break her sword.
Despite this, why does my heart hurt so much!?
"I'm not bad here, right?" I asked toward Rahsa's kind smile far away.
'Of course,' I created Rahsa's response on my own.
"I am truly thankful. Here are the promised two gold coins."
In exchange for the permit, we received the reward.
Iris begins making a racket, shrieking, after one coin is passed to her.
She must be relieved since she know her sword will be fixed.

"My name is Famiel. I deal mainly in products with historical value.
I will not forget this debt and have the desire to eventually repay this.
If it would be fine, would you please tell me your names?"

"Kururi Helan. That's Iris Palala.
While it is surely rude for me, a noble, to be giving you advice on your trade, but if I were to give you one piece of advice, it would be good of you to never forget the name and face of the woman behind me."
"Yes, a merchant will thankfully take any advice. It's free after all.
Kururi Helan-sama, Iris Palala-sama. I'm anticipating this meeting with you two to lead to a profit in the future."
"You say something like that in front of the other party?"

“Yes, a merchant is that sort of creature. Well, let’s meet again sometime.”
The merchant completed a mechanical greeting and left.

The merchant and the others opened the road, so the carriage was finally able to pass.
Speaking of Iris, she’s rubbing her cheek against the gold coin from earlier.

“What will you use that gold coin for?”
Well, the answer’s a given, though.

“I’ll send it to my family. They should be able to eat something nice for awhile with this.”
As I thought.
I actually want to give her my coin too, but she definitely won’t take it.

“However, I think I should give this coin to Kururi-san.
I’ve been in your care during this time and you said you’d fix my sword for me.
I don’t think we will become even with this, but please let me pay you for these four days.”
So it came like this.
“I won’t take it of course. This is money that Iris earned after all.”
“But, I really can’t give you anything else. Please, at least let me do this.”

“Do you want to give that money to me? Or do you want to send it to your family? Now, which are your real feelings?”

“…, I want to send it to my family.”
“Then you should do so. That way, everyone’s happy.
Do you think I’ll be happy with one gold coin?
Helan’s most expensive hot-spring hotel costs fifty gold coins for one night, which includes the hot spring, meal, and all other remaining services.”
“Fifty gold coins!? That’s, then I don’t think I’ll ever be able to enter Helan’s hot springs.
“Well, that’s the highest grade service after all. There are plenty of cheap inns.”
“Ah, that’s good.
…, Kururi-san. I will send this coin to my family.”
“That way is definitely better.”
“However, I will definitely not forget this debt!! I will definitely return this in the

future!
I am a woman that takes responsibility for her words, so believe me and look forward to it.”
“Definitely?”
“Definitely!!”

All right!!!!
I got the feeling of entering a big insurance company.

“Well, the academy is right ahead. Let’s enjoy the rest of the trip!”
“That’s right. I wonder what it’s like, huh?”
I’ve also been wondering about that and am excited to find out.
The carriage arrived at the academy on that day’s sunset.
For an academy, this it much too big, possessing a size so grand as if a single town exists inside.

“It’s huge, huh.” “Huge.”
I can’t find any other words.

Chapter 10 character list

← TOC →

Chapter 11

没落予定なので、鍛治職人を目指す

Botsuraku youtei nanode, Kajishokunin wo mezasu

Expecting to fall into ruin, I aim to become a blacksmith

Chapter 1-11

The place Iris and I are currently standing at is the academy's main entrance at its southern side.

I showed my student identification and was then allowed into the academy. After entering, I looked at the surroundings once more and saw that it was just as huge as I had expected.

A giant lake, fountain, flower bed, and such continued from the entrance towards the school building.
"The first year's dorm can be found by heading west."
We accept a brief explanation at the gate and brought out all of our luggage from the carriage.
From here, we'll be moving around the academy by foot.

West, which would mean to proceed left after reaching the school building. This place is a bit too big.

While I was able to see the building from before, I felt like I had walked for about ten minutes.
After arriving, I see that this building is also absurdly large.
Just how many students can this accommodate?

We approached the dorm manager's office in the front of the dorm.
"Are you entering the dormitory today?"
"Yes."
"The men's dormitory is the building directly in your front and the women's dormitory would be the building in the back.

The building to the your left would be the dining hall.
The rooms are first come, first served. You're the first to arrive to the dormitories, so you can pick any room you want."
"Well then, I'll take a room at the second floor. I'll see you again later."
Iris made her decision quickly and went to carry in her luggage.
"See you."
I think I'll also take the second floor.
"By the way, the first floor is unpopular, so its rooms possess more space than the other floors."
"If that's the case, then I'll take the first floor"
"Understood, then I'll give you the key for 1-1."
"Thanks."

I also went ahead and carried in my luggage.
Moving work is really tiresome. I suppose I'll put effort into unpacking from the first day so I won't end up pushing it back as much as possible.

There are four separate rooms.
One is the bedroom, another the living room, then a room capable of being used for blacksmithing, and the last one is a storage room.

I think up a plan and then start working immediately.
I have a feeling that the rooms are too wide, but they would probably receive complaints if they were too small after all.
I might not have needed four rooms.

Work proceeds at a good pace and I am almost finished by noon.
What I find to be great above all else is that a complete set of furniture is prepared and there's a large storage space.

After reaching a stopping point, I made my way to the dining hall next to the dorm.
It seems Iris hasn't come yet.
The meals appear to be buffet style.
The norm for this sort of thing is to end up taking a bit too much, so I took a small amount for the time being.
Maybe it's because of fatigue, but I'm satisfied with just that amount.

I returned to my room and began constructing the area for smithing next.
I loaded the materials on the carriage and knew the process of construction, so this finished at evening.
During dinnertime, I started seeing other students. However, since I have not been called out to by anyone, I ate alone. I then I headed below to the below-ground shared bathing area.

"As I expected, it'll be very tiring until I get used to the environment."
I let out a bit of a complaint and then fell asleep.
After waking up, I decided to take an early look around the school while doing some before breakfast running.
Absolutely everything is on a big scale.
The school building, that mysterious botanical garden, and the second and third year dorms are all gigantic.

Something like this creates a lot of mental strain.
It should give people who live in the city a different feeling though.

After breakfast, I thought to go meet Iris, but I believed the idea of a man entering the women's dorm with such light feelings would be bad.
I guess I'll fix Iris' sword first.

Since it's a defective product, it would be fastest to start over from scratch.
If I just make the appearance the same it shouldn't be found out after all.

Now that I've decided that, I prepare my tools and the sword in my smithing area and heated up the iron.

It was at this time that the sound of a knock came from the door.
A sound a bit too loud to be expressed as a light tapping.
I put a break to my work and opened the door for the visitor.

… It's a giant.

A man with such a height that their face was blocked by the door was standing there.
"I'm the person who moved in nextdoor."
I can't see their face, but it was a low and heavy voice.
It's not a classmate, it's definitely not.

“Ah, I’m 1-1’s Kururi Helan. Are you a classmate?”
“I am Vaine Lotte of 1-2 and the son of the head of the kingdom’s knights.”
This time his voice was small and hard to pick up.

However, with such a large body and oppressive feeling, you’re put under the feeling of being threatened.
“Ah, I’m of the territory of Helan. Please get along with me from now on.”
“Same here. I’ve heard stories about Helan’s hot springs. Someday, I… .”

Huh!? What was that last part!?
In comparison to his body, his voice is too small.
With this, we can’t have a conversation!

“We’ll be attending the same academy from now now, so let’s get along, Vaine-san.”

… .
There’s no response.
If were to compare a conversation to catch-ball, it would be his turn to throw.
I still haven’t seen his face either; there’s nothing more unsettling than this.

“I-if there’s nothing else, let’s leave it at this today. Shall we meet at school another day.”
“Yes.”
The man took one step back, put his hand on the door, and closed it in a grand manner.
I was met with a roaring sound and gust of wind.
“Sorry! I happen to be clumsy.”
“Don’t worry about it,” I answered through the door.
Yes, it seems one can speak with more of a piece of mind through a door.

Well, I guess I’ll get back to work.
I was interrupted, but concentrate, concentrate!

Right after I thought this, a grand knock rang out.

“Sorry, I came again.”

… The giant came again.

“W-what could it be?”

“I became engrossed in the conversation earlier and forgot to hand this over.”
There was something wrapped up neatly in the man’s hand.
Rather, did we have a conversation possible to get engrossed in before?

“My mother made me take this. She said if I hand it over, it would make that person happy.”
Present? A kind giant?

“Thanks. I’d like to return the favor, but the only thing I think I could give you right now would be…
only about a dagger. Would that be fine?”
“I’ll take it.”
I pass the dagger to Vaine-san and had him leave.
The force he shut the door was as fierce as always.
“Sorry! To have done it twice.”
“No, it doesn’t bother me.”

Well, let’s return to work.

Gon!! Gon!!
Again!?
It was with enough force for me to question whether the door was starting to break.

“What would be the problem?”
I did my best to ask in a manner that wouldn’t show my emotions.
“Since I was young, I’ve only sought strength and polished my skill in the sword.
I also learned other things from my father and was told to acquire substance as a person, so I came to this academy.
However, while I’ve came, I don’t know what to do.”
What is this, this creature alike a sad beast.

“For now, would you come inside?”
“Is it alright?”
“Go ahead.”

When he passed through the doorway, I was finally able to see his face.
Unlike the image of a sad beast, he was wearing a pleasant mask.
As expect of someone from the royal capital, I suppose; if you look closely, his

clothes are fashionable. His eyes and nose are distinct and he gives a refreshing impression.
His hair having a slight curl makes him look yet more elegant.
If he'd just stay quiet, he has both height and physique. Also a cool face.
He seems like he'll have explosive popularity within a certain group of women.

Just why did I let him in?
In under five minutes after I let Vain-san in, I was attacked by a fierce regret.
While it's fine that I let him in, Vain-san won't say anything.
He won't talk about himself nor will he enquire about others.
This is the worst pattern in the stage of figuring out your relationship to each other.
Though I say that, I don't know what to break out with on my side either.
As I thought, this person is a demon beast wearing a person's skin.

"Sit wherever you like.
I'm going to make a sword for a bit, so if you need anything, please call out to me."
Since I couldn't do anything about it, I restated my blacksmithing.

He should call out to me sooner or later.
However, he doesn't.
Furthermore, Vaine-san is sitting directly behind me for some reason.
Normally in this situation, you sit somewhere easy to talk like the side, right?
Why directly behind?
It's unsettling.

In combat, entering a blind spot is correct, but for communication, it's one of the worst things to do!!
Just what did the head knight teach him!!?

I have the feeling that this is the first time I have sweat so much while making a sword.

"Why are you making a sword?"
He's finally making conversation!!
But, what? What is that question!?

A voice that could be taken as denying my actions coming from my blind spot.

What? Am I being tested?!
If I give the wrong answer here, am I going to be killed?
Am I going to be killed by the next head knight and thrown away like a piece of trash?

“Um, could you come sit beside me and talk? It’s easier for the both of us to talk that way,”
I turned around apprehensively and tried asking.
“Ah! I’m sorry. I’m not so good with that sort of thing. If there’s anything else impolite I’ve done, please go ahead an tell me.”
“Got it.”
Huh? Is he a kind giant after all?

“I’m in the middle of fixing an acquaintance’s sword, you see.
I thought I might as well return it at a state better than it was before.”
“Is that so? It seems Kururi-san is a nice person.”
“You don’t have to use honorifics. We’re classmates after all.”
“Well then, I will call you Kururi.”
“I’ll also call you Vaine.”
“Yes, I don’t mind such.”

… .

“Your hobbies are?”
“I don’t really have any.”

… .

“Do you have a favorite food?”
“I’ve never judged food with like or dislike.”

… .
Please hurry up and leave!!

I figured out he’s a good person, but these conversations just don’t continue!
To open up to this person, time is necessary.
Within today or tomorrow is impossible!

I finished making the sword and we made some conversation, but he still won’t leave.

This person probably won’t leave until they’re told.
But even so, I can’t just tell him to leave.

“I’m hungry.”
That’s it!
“Shall we go eat? Let’s go to the dining hall and go ahead and call it a day afterwards.”
“Alright. Is it fine if I come tomorrow as well?”

“… . Of course!”
Well then, how will I beat common sense into this beast?

Chapter 11 character list

← TOC →

Chapter 12

没落予定なので、鍛治職人を目指す

Botsuraku youtei nanode, Kajishokunin wo mezasu

Expecting to fall into ruin, I aim to become a blacksmith

Chapter 1-12

At nearly the same time that the morning sun rose, my door was attacked by a wild beast.

“You’re quite early, Vaine-san.”
“Yeah.”
This man came just as promised, with the sun’s rise.
Actually, while I did not specify a time, this should be expressed as arriving at a time lacking common sense.

I look at his personal appearance and see it’s put in precise order.
His hair isn’t disarranged from sleep at all.

Rather than saying he came just as the sun rose, it has more of the feeling that he waited for the sun to rise and then came.
The boundary of his safe line and out line is there, perhaps?

“Please, come inside.”
“Thank you.”

Hardly after rising from bed, a gentleman with a well-ordered appearance enters.
Somehow, I start to get the feeling that my side is lacking common sense.

“I’ll get dressed right away.”
“No hurry.”

Since I was told such, I dressed at my leisure and washed my face.
“I’ll prepare some coffee.”

“Thanks.”

I enjoy grinding coffee beans.
Things such as the smell and the simple work of grinding have a healing effect on me.

“Here.”
“Thanks.”
I took my time enjoying the cup of coffee I had made with care.

“After we finish drinking, shall we have breakfast?”
“I had you accompany me yesterday for the whole day.
I want to show you my thanks today, so I have a place I want to take you to. I’ll treat you to breakfast there.”
“That sound nice. I’ll be waiting eagerly with an empty stomach.”
‘He’s an unexpectedly amicable person, huh,’ I thought.
I wonder what he’s going to treat me to? I wonder if it’s okay to expect something delicious from the royal capital?

The door was knocked on once again. Unlike Vaine’s, a knock with common sense.
I opened the door and Iris was standing there.

“Morning. I came.”
“Morning. Please, come inside.”
This sort of visitor with common sense gives my mind some leeway.
“Thanks,” Iris began talking while entering the room.
“I was a bit worried if it was okay to enter the men’s dorm, but since school hasn’t started yet, I took the leap.
Uwah!?”
Iris saw Vaine and was shocked.
Of course you’d be surprised. He’s a giant after all.
Well, he doesn’t bite, so there’s no danger.

“I am Vaine Lotte”
“Eh, yes, I am Iris Palala. Nice to meet you.”
“Ah.”

“It seems the two of your introductions are done.

Iris, it seems Vaine will take me somewhere today, but if it you'd like, would you come along?"
If you're there, I won't be troubled in conversation!!

"Sorry, in the school building there's a library, you see. You can read the ten thousand books all you want. I've been looking forward to it, so I'm planning on going right away."
"Is that so, that's too bad."
It is really too bad!
Alone with the wild beast, huh.

"Come to think of it, the repair of Iris' sword was finished."
I handed the sword I had left on a desk to Iris.
"Thanks. I really appreciate it!
I also sent the gold coin home. This is all thanks to Kururi-san."

"Just Kururi is fine. We'll be classmates from here on after all.
It'll be nice if you find a good book at the library."
It seemed like the atmosphere was becoming dark, so I changed the topic.

"Yeah!"
As I thought, she becomes quite happy when it comes to talking about the library.

"What kind of relationship do Iris and Kururi have?"
Vaine joined the conversation.
I really wish he would show this sort of assertiveness when we're alone!

"When coming to the academy, we traveled together."
"Is that so?
At any rate, Iris is pretty, huh."

""Eh!?""
This person say these kinds of things without a problem.
He's quite the player.
As expected of Vaine-san!!

"It's the first time I've been called something like pretty."
Iris' cheeks turned red.

Eh-!? It ends up in that kind of feeling, huh.
Vaine-san, were you one of the romance targets??

“Well, Kururi, let’s also head out.”
This side seems to think nothing of it.
It seems he just spoke his honest feelings.
This man is a natural player!!
With certainty!!

“Ah, let’s go.”
“Well, I’m going to the library.”
“Yeah.”
We left the room and parted from Iris.

“You can borrow a horse at the academy.”
Just as Vaine’s intelligence stated, we were able to borrow horses.
The amount of horses available to borrow where quite a lot, with a variety of breeds and hair color.
Just as I thought, a horse with chestnut hair is pretty, so I chose such a horse without hesitation.

“You can ride a horse quite well.”
Awesome. I was praised by a soldier along the way.

The place that Vaine led me to was a prairie filled with greenery. It was only a short distance from the academy.
An environment like heaven for horses and the like, I’d think.
The air is also clean, with all the grass they can eat.

In actuality, their running became lighter after reaching the prairie.

I chased right after Vaine.
The wind feels good.
The rising sun on the horizon and a slight chill to the air give me the feeling of wanting to ride on for forever.

I want to continue riding just like this.
It makes me think in such a way.
“I can see the settlement now.
I’ll go for a bit. Please wait.”

“Got it.”

I gazed at the sky with a morning glow.
The horse is relaxing.
From horse-riding, my drowsiness flew away and I had also sweated a pleasant amount.
With only this, I’m already in a satisfied mood.
I’ll have to give my thanks to Vaine for inviting me.

“I’ve made you wait.”
Vaine called out to me from behind as I was observing the sky.
There lied a spectacle that blew away my refreshing mood.

There was a sheep tied up by it’s limbs carried on Vaine’s horse.
Strangely, the sheep is extremely docile. It’s looking this way with clear eyes.
It must have accepted its fate.

“What is this sheep?”
A natural question.
“I thought of treating you.
I had someone from the settlement sell it to me.”

That’s the reason, huh.
Not needing breakfast and bringing me out was for this.

I never ate a whole roast of a sheep when I was at home.
I’ve never seen the killing of livestock either.
While I have seen raw meat, the food lined up on the table was always already cooked.

Usually I wouldn’t like something like a whole roast of a sheep. However, it might be alright if it’s at this prairie.

It seems I’ll obtain a nice experience today.

“In the regions in the north where produce can’t grow,… ”
Following after Vaine who said he would head to our destination, I listened to his story on the way.

“the people can’t get many vegetables.”

I would guess as such.
I've heard there was such a place.

"The wisdom people gained there was to eat raw."
Eh? What?

"By eating raw meat, it's possible to take in the essential nutrients found in vegetables.
The people of the northern lands are able to live in this way."

… I see.

"In actuality they almost never suffer serious illness and are even known for longevity."
Huh, I can see the where this conversation leads, but… .

"I also want Kururi to experience this."

… Would you please let me leave already!!?
I already feel really good after all!!
"Well, we've arrived."
The place Vaine took me to was truly a beautiful place.
We seemed to come to the edge of the prairie where there was a cliff that you could see the sea from.
"It's a beautiful spot."

Such words naturally flow out.
If not for the tragedy that will surely occur next, I might have shed tears over this scenery.
Beautiful nature.
My heart is healed, bringing forth the memories of my beautiful homeland.
"This is a good sheep. It has worth in eating."
Vaine was steadily making preparations for breakfast beside me as I was charmed by the scenery.
Even after being taken down from the horse, the sheep doesn't struggle.

Why does it look this way with such clear eyes?
The power to save you does not exist in me.

At that moment, Vaine's dagger took the sheep's neck.

The head is cut off beautifully and came came flying right in front of me.
Hiiiiiiiiiiii!!
A scream that couldn't become a voice came out.

"Ah."
My eyes met the sheep's neck.
As if glared at by Medusa, my body cannot move.

They were clear, kind eyes.

"What?"
"No… "
"Did… your eyes meet?"
"My eyes… met."
"…"

Say something!!
What's with that meaningful reaction!?

If your eyes meet, you get cursed, right!?
That's it, right!?

"Does something happen if your eyes meet?"
I tried asking, timidly.
"Nah, nothing in particular."

That's a lie, right? I know that's a lie!
I don't need a kind lie! I want the truth!

"Is there some anecdote? Please tell me."
"It's really nothing.
It's just, I've never looked at the eyes of livestock while killing them. I'd feel pity for them after all."
"That's it?"
If that's all, then it's fine… .
"However,… "
Hey! There's more after all, right!?

"My uncle said that if you look livestock in the eyes while killing it, its face will appear in your mind when you eat it."

Dammit!!
When I eat sheep from now on, those bleared, kind eyes will appear in my mind!?
If something like that appears, there's no way I'll be able to eat, will I!!?

"Well, it depends on the person. Don't worry about it."
"Haha, that's true."
Somehow the beautiful scenery lost its meaning.

Even during the time I was in shock, Vaine proceeded his work unconcernedly.
Far off from being clumsy, his handiwork was smooth and beautiful.
He's surely accustomed to it; he's skilled enough that even an amatuer can tell by looking.

After he cut the head off, he shaves all of the hair off.
Then opening the abdomen, he takes out all of the innards.

Oe—

After taking out the innards, he disassembles the sections of meat and cuts it up to be edible.

Oe-

"Well, let's eat."

Ican'tdothisIcan'tdothisIcan'tdothisIcan'tdothisIcan'tdothis!!

I can't say that of course.
He went to the trouble of buying and preparing it.

"Did you need salt?"
It's not that level of problem.

"L,let's eat."
I resolved myself.

I took the thigh meat dripping with blood and carried it to my mouth.
My hand was shaking, but I did my best and continued.

As I thought, Ican'tdothisIcan'tdothisIcan'tdothisIcan'tdothisIcan'tdothis!!

"The liver is especially delicious. I'll give it to you."

That’s an unwelcome favor.

However, will I turn away his good will?
He’s yielding the liver over to me.
It’s the liver!

I do my best and grab it with my hands and carry it to my mouth.

As I thought, Ican’tdothisIcan’tdothisIcan’tdothisIcan’tdothisIcan’tdothis!!

Haahaa, it seems my breath has gotten progressively ragged.

“Are you not good with the liver’s fat?”

“No, not at all.”
I’m! Eating it!!
I will accept my friend’s good will!!

Imagine it, just imagine it.
For example, a hypothetical situation.
Let’s say Rahsa pays money to invite me to go strawberry picking.
I am let to a brilliant field, pick strawberries, and he expressly gives me some with the stem taken out. Furthermore, the sweetest ones.
Will I refuse that?
Of course I won’t refuse!!
It’s wrong to refuse, right!!?

This situation and the hypothetical situation, what is different!!?
What is different between the sheep’s liver and the sweetest strawberry!!?

If I don’t eat this, I’ll stop being a person!
At the least, it can’t be forgiven for me to name myself as Vaine’s friend.

I put the liver in my mouth.

It’s mild.
Oe-
It’s not delicious, but it’s not bad.

“It’s delicious enough to cry, huh?”
“Yeah, yeah, yeah.”

The tears won’t stop.

“It’s the first time I’ve had someone enjoy it so much.”
I have the feeling Vaine showed me his smile for the first time.
I’m glad I ate it. Really.

Oe-
“I’ve never made a friend before this.
Kururi, it seems I’ll be able to become friends with you.”

“Ah, we’ve eaten the same sheep’s innards after all.

← TOC →

No new named characters, so no new character list post. Changed Vaine Lot to Vaine Lotte.

Chapter 13

Chapter 1-13 (Gossip)

My neighbors are dangerous!

At the time that almost all students had entered the academy and begun their dorm life, I had finally entered the dorms as well.

Before entering the dorm, I heard the female students' rumor, "Aren't the first floor's residents a little strange?"
I didn't think much of it.
The elite I have no need to pay attention to something at the level of another's gossip.
Since after all is said and done, I am the heir of the Razan territory, famed for its jewel mining.

More so than such gossip, I can't help but be looking forward to my new academy life.
I immediately decided my room after receiving the call of, "The first floor rooms are wider than the others," from the dorm manager.
I small room is not appropriate for me.
The room I will be spending this three year period in from here on is room 1-3.

While I intend on devoting myself to my studies while I am student, I also want to meet with people I can call friends.
Limited to those who possesses the mindset of the upper echelons of society like me, of course.
Though it would be nice if my dorm neighbor met those conditions.

There's nothing to criticize about the inside of the room.
Space, basic facilities, the scenery from the window, sunlight, absolutely all details give satisfaction.
It can't match my room at home, though.
Well, it seem that my choice of the wide first floor was correct.

It was evening when I was let into the dorm.
The organizing of luggage and such should take time.
I want to finish all of the work within today.

The greetings to my neighbor should be fine tomorrow.

Having expectations towards tomorrow causes power to surge into my body; I became vigorous. Work proceeded extremely efficiently.

The dining hall's meal was also very delicious and I was able to be satisfied.
I experienced a bit of discomfort on the baths being shared, but it can't be helped. I should become used to this immediately.

I returned to my room and looked at my new home that I had cleaned up.
"Hmm, a splendid and well-ordered room."
On the first floor, a garden is especially attached.
I exited the window and looked at the garden.
It is separated from the adjacent garden by fencing and its grass was a beautiful green.

I'll have this for three years.
It might be nice to grow something.
A tree, flowers, my imagination is filled with ideas.
Growing a rose garden to suit me would be good. Surely that would best favor the person that I am.

"Hah! Hah! Hah!"
Another person's voice resounded in my garden.

It seems the resident to the left room is doing something in their garden. 1-2's side, huh.
I secretly peek through the gaps in fence and there was a man of a large build doing practice-swings with a large sword.
He's naked above the waist and by obligation to no one, is simply swinging his sword in a state free from obstructive thoughts.

I thought, 'Honestly, I don't want to get involved.'
I couldn't imagine mixing with such a vulgar man.
It would surely leave a stain on my live.

My neighbor is not just him. If I look to the right, there is also the student of 1-4.
I think I'll go greet the student of 1-4 tomorrow.

I returned to my room and made the black tea I always drink before sleeping.
A gentle scent spreads throughout the room.
Within that I felt a small amount of bitterness, but I didn't worry about it.
At the same time I put the tea in my mouth, I felt drowsy.

As I thought, the fatigue from moving around all day has come out.
After drinking let's enter the bed.
However, it was quite the strong drowsiness.
Unable to bear it, I fell down on the spot and fell asleep before I had noticed.

I don't know how long I slept myself.

The next morning, I woke up to a strong sound formed by a collusion.
There's a sound coming from the door.
It seems that someone is violently striking the door.
If I look outside, the sun has just risen.
What business must it be from such an hour?
There is nothing more lacking of common sense!
Or is this a robber or something!?

Scary! Due to my inexperience, only such feelings come out.
My body wouldn't move.
I simply waited for that fear to pass by.

Even after the sounds stopped, for awhile I was scared and unable to move.
I couldn't yet understand what had happened.
Now that I think of it, I can't remember last night well either.

I can remember until the part where I was drank the tea, but why was I sleeping on the floor?

There's no reason to push yourself to remember something you can't remember.
For now, let's consult someone about this morning's affair.
I finished my breakfast, reset my feelings, and visited 1-4.

“Yes?”
What came out was a dirty man wearing a hood and mask.
The room gives off a strong medicinal smell.
I reflexively wanted to plug my nose, but I was able to withstand it somehow.
The man is short with a thin body; looking at the recesses of his eyes, they are very dark, perhaps being due to not be sleeping much.

“Umm, I am Luin who moved in nextdoor.”
I already didn’t want to greet him.
I can’t become friends with him.
He’s a completely different person from the I of glittering flowers.
I want to leave this place as soon as possible.

“I’m Toto Gapp.
By the way, did you sleep well yesterday?”
“Well, yes. For some reason, I can’t remember yesterday well, but I certainly slept well.
Well then, I’ll be leaving with this.”
“Is that so, it seems to have gone well.”
“What was that?”
“I was talking to myself.”
“I, I see. Well then, I’ll be going.”

Unfortunately, I was not blessed in neighbors.
The left is a barbarian.
The right is an eccentric.

What, there’s nothing to feel down over.
Once the academy’s classes start, you can meet with a countless number of students.
With my gorgeousness, I will surely be blessed in group relations.

Both neighbors were no good.
But 1-1 is also nearby.
I might as well try calling out to him.

I stand before the door of 1-1 and could hear a slightly sharp metallic sound coming from the room.

I feel like I've heard this sound before.

It's similar to the sounds I heard at a smithy.
Is he striking iron?
A noble? For what reason?

Every possible question popped up, but due to the choice of not calling out to him, my worries disappeared.
I returned to my room and drink my favorite black tea to calm down my mind.

There's no need to hurry.
It's become certain that there are eccentrics around me, but I can make friends without hurrying.
That's right, I'm a special person after all.

While it would be fine to choose to do nothing all day, I decided to spend the day reading.
I brought a multiple of my favorite books.
It's a good opportunity to read them over again.

I noticed an irregularity immediately.
Strange.
Without any regards to it being noon, I was attacked by a strong drowsiness.
"I, I have to get to my bed."
I head to my bed with an unsteady manner of walking, but I ran out of strength and fell down on that spot and slept.

I don't know how long I had slept.

The next morning, I woke up to a strong sound formed by a collusion.
There's a sound coming from the door.
It's the guy from yesterday!
I understood right away.
The person from yesterday is trying to break the door again.

I look outside and it's still sunrise.

Just what business do you say you have in my room?!

Once again, there was only fear.
"Okaa-sama," I unconsciously called out for my mother.

Why do I have to meet such a humiliating experience?
Tears came out through chagrin and fear.

After time had passed, the sound stopped today as well.
Did he give up?
After finishing breakfast, let's consult the dorm manager.
If I do not, I might not be able to bear living here any longer.

At the time I was drinking some black tea to calm myself down, a sound came from the door again.
It seems it was only knocked on this time.

After opening the door, yesterday's resident from 1-4 was there.
A strong smell of medical plants comes from his body. The smell of his room much be staining his clothes.
It is extremely unclean.
I already forgot his name, but I have no intention in becoming friends with him.
It troubles me if he acts friendly, so if possible, I'll turn him away.

"What is it? I'm a bit busy."
"Sorry, just a bit. Last night the lights seemed to had been off for the whole night, but did something happen?"
"Ah, now that you mention it, I woke up on the floor this morning, huh? Why did I sleep on the floor?
Hm, I can't remember well."
"Two continuous days successful."
"Hm?"
"I was talking to myself. Be careful with your body, well then."
"Ah, see you."
I closed the door immediately.
More or less, he seemed to be worried about me.
While I understand that the wants to get friendly with the elite I, there is something to satisfied before kindness.
With that appearance it's hard to say whether his lineage should match up with mine.

Really, I picked a strange room.
Now that I think about it, it would have been better if I had kept that student's

gossip in the corner of my mind.

However, after commuting the dining hall for a few days, I was able to make friends naturally.
With the academy being this large, there were many elegant people who matched up with my lineage.
As I thought, having gorgeous people in my surroundings suits me.

1-2's giant, 1-4's medicine plant man, 1-1's metal man, they are not suitable for me.
I've also heard there's a new student from the commoners this year. The first time I heard it, it gave me a shiver. But either way they'll immediately lose their place, so it doesn't have any relation to me.

And, since the day I consulted the dorm manager, the thunderous roar every morning stopped.
It seems the dorm manager is patrolling.
While the start was the worst, my smooth-sailing academy life has set out on track.
I was born under such a star.

"Black tea is delicious."
I call my friends to my room and drink tea, a supreme luxury.
Everyone else is also enjoying it. A gorgeous scene, suitable for us.

"Uee," just then, one of my friends vomited.
Breakfast, the black tea from before, all of the contents of their stomach.
"Hey, just what are you putting in your tea?"
My other friends' gazes of suspicion were naturally turned toward me.
"I-I haven't put anything stra…uee."
I also vomited.
After that, as if lured by it, everyone in my room vomited.

"What is wrong with your room?"
My friends felt indignation and left.
"Dammit!"
Why? Even though I didn't put anything strange into the tea.
Reluctantly, I cleaned up the room that had become filled with garbage and put

forth an apology to my friends the next day.
I really made the tea properly. I conveyed that to everyone with all my effort and somehow got them to forgive me.

Fu, I was dangerously close to a dark cloud hanging over my academy life.
Nevertheless, when drinking my black tea yesterday, it had a faint medicinal smell? …Well, I'm surely just thinking too much.

"It seems you made quite the racket with your friends yesterday, but did something happen?"
1-4's hooded man came by again today.
He's an annoying man.
"No, well, we met some light food poisoning is all. Next time we won't make a ruckus, so there's nothing in particular you need to be concerned about."
I tried conveying 'don't come anymore' indirectly.
"Fufu, I'm a genius."
"Nn?"
"I was talking to myself. Well then."
"Ah, see you."
The next time he comes, let's not open the door.
He is not suitable for me.

In the afternoon, my friends invited me to exercise outside.
I wasn't really in the mood, but there was also the issue of yesterday.
It's a good chance for reconciliation.

I took everyone along and walked in the front.
Everyone was getting excited about what to do, but it seems that my mood wouldn't become well due to having unpleasant things happen to me for successive days.

At such a time, I collided head-on with a man that came from ahead.
Due to the both of us looking aside we, fell violently.
"Agh!"
I looked at the man I bumped into and it was 1-1's metal man.
The resident that I went to visit, but gave up on.
I had seen him come out of his room several times after that.
From his clothing and behavior, I immediately understood he was far away from

me, a low-leveled noble.
I really do think it was good to have not greeted him.
Who I just collided into was unmistakably that metal man.

“Sorry, I was looking aside and didn’t notice.”
Words of apology came from the man and he held out his hand to me.

I stuck that hand strongly.
“Please do not touch me!”
My mood is currently quite bad.
On top of that, borrowing the hand of some guy who strikes iron is impossible.

“Don’t touch me with your dirty hand!
It’s impossible for a third-rate noble like you to touch me! It would be fine if you just would walk on the side.”
“…Nn, sorry. Well then, I’ll be going.”
I threw a final blow at the leaving man’s back.
“From now on, properly look in front of you while walking. That way, you life at the academy and your future should become something good!”
The man made no reply and left.
A useless man. Can’t even answer back.
“Hey! Just now was bad.” One of my friends drew near to me with strong vigor.
“It’s fine, isn’t it? A single small fry like that.” I don’t understand what he’s fretting so much over.
“It’s not fine! That guy is Kururi Helan! Don’t you know!?”
“I, I don’t know.”
Who? Who is this Kururi Helan?
The friend who drew up to me had the blood in his face reced.
Even looking at my other friends, everyone was making an uneasy face.
Somehow, I have a extremely bad premonition.

“Helan is the most prosperous territory in the country right now. That guy is the next feudal lord over there.
He’s also someone who has connections to the queen and the second prince, Rahsa-sama!”
“Even if you say connections, it’s not such a strong connection, right? I haven’t heard such talk at all.”

In order to erase my anxiety, I brought up material for an excuse.
“Nah, it was quite recent, but there’s a rumor that he’s quite close to Rahsa-sama.
If you poorly offend him, there’s the possibility of having a punishment from the royal family fly at you.”
I involuntarily swallowed the saliva in my mouth.
“H, hmm.”
Words won’t come out.

“Besides, I know about it.”
My friends seem to still possess some information.
I’m already in the mood of plugging my ears.

“That guy is apparently quite the magic user. I’ve heard that has enough power that he can take down a monster with one shot of magic.”
“I’ve also heard that.”
My other friends showed agreement.
A monster with one shot of magic!? Is something like that possible for a student?
That’s something I haven’t heard of at all.
I’ve become anxious, but it’s still only the kind of stories that can’t be believed.

“Um, since it’s now I can say it, but…”
It seems there’s still something else.

“This story happens when I just entered the dorm.
That Kururi Helan came back once with his hands and mouth stained with blood.
I was scared so I didn’t enquire, but if I think about it now… ”
Everyone seemed to swallow down their saliva. It was quiet enough to hear that sound.

The surroundings became engulfed by silence at once.

It didn’t need to be said by anyone, we understood.
Ah, just what did I do?
Just where will my brilliant academy life be heading?

My neighbors all seem to be dangerous.
My mind became slightly disordered.

My neighbors are dangerous!!

Let’s just put that into my mind.

If I do so, my life at the academy might improve a bit.

Chapter 14

Chapter 1-14

“In the end, I wasn’t able to become friends with the resident of 1-3,” Vaine who had come from early morning said, with a grim feeling about his face.

“Well, you can’t do something like become friends with absolutely everyone, so I don’t think you should worry about it.”
“Is that so, even though were the same humanity.”
He’s surely thinking about various things in his mind for the amount he doesn’t put it into words.
It’s only two weeks since meeting, but I’ve progressively understood what kind of person he is.
“People can both love and hate each other. Just what is that difference?”
“Yeah, it’s not something you normally think about.”
“…”
I tried to indirectly convey, ‘That doesn’t have a conclusion, so it would be better to stop,’ but Vaine seemed to have started thinking with his eyes closed.
He has an overly serious personality that lets him face such absurd things earnestly.

Confronting him head on still troubles me, so I’m focusing on smithing.
Doing something while having a conversation unexpectedly makes communication go smoothly.

The room was briefly filled with the pleasant sounds of work.

“Don’t you need to prepare for tomorrow’s competency test?”
Vaine broke the silence.

The competency test is an exam performed one week before school for class’ compositions.
The particulars were written on the admissions guidebook so I am naturally prepared.

“I shouldn’t have a problem with the written test. I’ve been studying for a few hours after waking every day.
I’m not particularly worried about the physical strength test either. Even though I look like this, I’ve been training since the time I was a child after all.”「
“Is that so. I also have confidence in the physical strength test, but the written…
.
Well, I’ll use all my power to go even a bit higher. ”
Absolutely everything about him is too close to his image so I wasn’t surprised at all.

“The top forty were class A, right?”
“As long as there’s nothing special.”

To begin with Iris, almost all main characters are in class A.
In order to prevent Eliza’s rampage, entering class A is my supreme thesis.
‘If you think so, it isn’t the time to be striking iron, is it?’ you might think. Well, even if I hurry before the real thing, the result won’t dramatically change.
Doing what you like and then receiving the real thing is the best.

Rather, Vaine, if you’re worried, then study.
Why are you pondering upon mankind’s eternal thema in my room instead of studying?
“I ask for guidance!!”

“It’s from the door’s direction.”
During the conversation with Vaine, a loud voice resounded from outside.
From the voice’s pitch, one would think it’s a woman’s.
It’s with as much vigor as if waging a duel. Was their lover taken perhaps?

“Isn’t it from the outside of this room? ”
I do not have the memory of stealing someone’s lover nor waging a duel.
“I think it’s a different room.”
“I ask for guidance!!”
Even more vigor was added.

“As I thought, it’s from the front of this room. I’ll go take a look.”
Vaine stood up from his chair and headed to the entranceway.
“A-” Well, I suppose it’s fine.

It seems like quite the troublesome visitor.
If they're actually shouting in front of another room's door, then that's also fine.
If it's nothing much, they should surprised by Vaine's appearance and go away.

"What?"
I heard a voice from the entryway containing not a splinter of Vaine's kindness.
By the way, he has no ill will.
"Is this Kururi Helan's rooaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah."
An absurd scream.
I have confidence that even if the heavens and earth were to topple over that I wouldn't make such a scream.

The female vistor clears their throat two or three times and calmly returned to talking.
"I cannot see your face, but I make my acquaintance with Kururi Helan. I have come on this occasion to make a request."
I see, Vaine's face is covered by the doorway.
I don't believe him to have the courteousness to bend his waist.
I was able to understand their present situation as if it were in my hand.
"I am not Kururi."
"Eh, you're not? I heard that Kururi-dono's room was 1-1."
"It is. But I'm not Kururi."
"Eh!? A friend perhaps? If so, please call Kururi-dono."
"I can't do that. Leave."
Why!?
I was the most surprised by that reply. Why are you arbitrarily sending her away?
"You! Perhaps you came to Kururi-dono's room to do something bad?"
"If I did, what are you going to do?"
"I will have you leave!"

The two were getting into a dangerous mood, so I rushed to the entryway in a panic.
"Why are you two showing naked hostility to each other? It hasn't been a minute since you met."
"It's because it was a rude person."
Ah, he's holding on to the fact he was yelled at.

“I will deal with this, so wait in the room, Vaine.”
“Ah.”
He went with a reluctant acceptance.

“Greetings, I am Kururi Helan. This is the first time we’ve met, I believe?”
I greeted the woman in front of me.
Alike Vaine, the woman had her clothes put in order beautifully, her blonde hair tied up in a single bundle behind her.
Standing there with a beautiful posture as if a pole was running through, probing this side with her large eyes. To say in one sentence, a beautiful woman. To give an assessment, A+. Incidentally, there is no standard.
“Yes! I am Curosshi Amirale. It is an honor to meet you.
I am relieved you have the face I imagined.”
“Eh, ah. Thanks. Then, what sort of business do you have?”
“I, Curosshi Amirale, have come to for an apprenticeship under Kururi Helan-dono.”
“Eh?”
An idiotic voice came out.

“I have heard that you possess considerable skill in both the sword and in magic. I too want to become strong. Please, please, teach that strength to me.”
“Eh? Ah,…for now, will you come inside?”
“Yes!”

This isn’t good.
Lately I’ve been putting off thinking whenever something annoying happens and I feel like I ended up inviting her in my room as a result.
Something like apprenticeship is definitely troubling. Let’s turn them away by saying, ‘Read books.’

“It’s an honor to be let into Kururi-dono’s room.”
“If your business is done, hurry up and leave.” The one who let out the hostile words was Vaine.
“What did you say!?”
She is fighting Vaine with her gaze.
Stop it. You can’t win!
He’s a giant! You’ll be eaten!

I tried asking Curosshi-san who I had sit in a chair.
“Curosshi-san is in the same year, right?”
“Yes. I am.”
“Why did you consider something like apprenticeship?”
“I… have to become strong. Due to this I’ve been searching for strong people and heard rumors of Kururi-dono.”
Just what are those rumors? I’m a bit scared to know, so I won’t ask.
Even so, she wants to become strong, huh. There seems to be some sort of circumstances so I won’t ask too deeply.

“What would a woman do after getting so strong?”
Vaine cut in.
“What’s wrong with a woman becoming strong!?”
Round two, fight!
I couldn’t let it proceed, so I cut in without a moment’s delay.

“Furthermore, I am not a woman! I am a man!”
“Eh?” An idiotic voice came out once again.
Vaine also cannot hide his astonished face.

His voice, his appearance, and also the nice smell drifting from his a hair all are that of a woman’s.
Despite this, a man?
I tried observing properly once more.
Yeah, a woman.
Also quite a nice woman.
But, a man.
Even though it’s a woman, a man.
…What? What is a man?

I seem to have slightly fallen into confusion.
“A-anyway, I have to become strong! Please bestow strength upon me as my master.”
“Even if you say strength. It’s possible for me to convey what I learned as is, if that’s okay.”
“Of course! I came because I wanted to learn that.”
“W, well then, I’m OK with apprenticeship.”

“Thank you so much! I swear that even after overcoming my limits, I shall further train and gain comprehension of master’s techniques.”
No, that’s heavy, so stop it!
It’ll give me pressure!

He must have been captivated by the word strength.
After the conversation with Curosshi finished, Vaine opened his mouth.

“If you want to become strong, first train your body. Your body is too thin. Since that’s the case, even if you can use magic, swordsmanship will be difficult.”
“Shut up! I cannot accept your instruction! I am master Kururi’s disciple!”
The two’s gaze is yet again strongly entangled.
Round three! Fight!!

“Now now, calm down you two.”
“Yes, if master so says.
By the way, I want to begin training right away,” I was told this and come to a loss.
What should I have him do?

“…T, train your body. Start from that.”
Vaine’s gaze hurts.
But these are the basics, right!? Vaine-san, even if you didn’t say it, I would have!!
It’s true! I’m saying it’s true!!

“Yes, understood. In detail, what should I do?”
“Whatever you do, bodily flexibility and fundamental physical strength as necessary. First, stretch your joints and muscles.”
These are Vaine’s lines.
Curosshi gives Vaine a sidelong glare.

“Whatever you do, bodily flexibility and fundamental physical strength as necessary. First, stretch your joints and muscles.”
While these are my lines, they are not my words.
“Understood!”

I’m asking you two, please get along!
Then you don’t need me in the middle!!

“Stretch your thighs more!”
Vaine enters strict coaching.
“…”
Curosshi ignores.
“How about you stretch your thighs more?”
“Understood!”

Dammit!
If it were going to become like this, I should have gone to the entryway, then it wouldn’t have become something so bothersome.

“Properly take your time training your foundation.
After continuing for a week, you enter the stage of running to increase physical strength. Until then you will only cultivate flexibility.”
“…”
“Think of his words as if they are mine!”
I added without a moment’s delay.
“Understood!”
Ah, I was unexpectedly able to get him it accept it so simply.

“Open your legs more.”
Vaine enters a strict check. He seems to get fired up when becoming someone’s trainer.
“Ku, don’t touch a woman’s thighs!”
It seems that Vaine’s hand that he used to support him in opening his legs more bothers him.
“But you’re a man.”
“That’s right! But don’t touch them!”
“Noisy. Listen, open your legs more!”
“I said not to touch there!”

Good, it seems they’re getting along.
Vaine seems to be good at looking after others. His tone is harsh, but his guidance itself is thorough and attentive.
The two are noisy, but they seem like they’ll be able to get along.

I returned to smithing.

“Try looking at this flexibility. The feet easily reach to the head. Until you reach this level, you cannot proceed to the next step.”
“I could care less about your bragging. Aaaaaaaaaaaaa, you’re pushing too hard! It hurts!”
“It hurts because you were so lazy for your life until now.”
“Shut up, you, don’t make a mockery of me!”
“Whatever, just be quiet. Strength exists just past of endurance.”
“Even without you saying, I understand!”
Good, they’re getting along just as I thought.
Sheesh, can’t you go and do this in your own room?

Chapter 15

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tl note: this is a bit less common for you fellow weebs to know and necessary for the chapter, so I thought I'd mention, but 4 is an unlucky number as it can be pronounced as shi, which can mean death.

Chapter 1-15

The day of the exam.

The first day's exam is the physical strength test.
All four hundred thirty two new students are gathering in the school's yard

While they were supposed to come in an outfit easy to move around in, there is also the issue of it being early morning, so everyone is wearing quite a bit of clothes.
That being said, I am also wearing long sleeves and pants, taking care not to let my body heat be stolen.

Around five minutes after the assembly time, someone who could be thought to be an instructor appeared from the front of the yard.
"Eh, nice to meet you, everyone. I am the instructor Mitchell Woo.
Today's exam is the physical strength test. I'll have you run the school's outer circumference of about ten kilometers.
Your time will affect your score just like that, so endevor properly.
Each individual has a cloth with their assigned number on it made, so wear it on your front.
Well then, we'll start one hour later at the main gate, so do not be negligent in preparation! That will be all!"

A ten kilometer marathon, huh. I have confidence in my physical strength, so I'm glad it's a simple event.
My number is 44.
Normally you won't have good feelings with such a number.
However, I entered my warm-up exercises without my motivation especially

dropping.

The two beside me exercising in the same way are the two who came to my room early this morning.
“I’ll confirm your base physical strength with today’s exam.”
Vaine is stretching his body with thorough care while talking.
“Don’t talk from a higher viewpoint, blockhead! I’ve only allowed such a way of speaking from Kururi-dono!”
Curosshi also performs stretches with scrupulous care just like how Vaine instructed him to yesterday.

“Ow ow, don’t push so strongly!”
By the time I notice, Vaine has entered supporting Crosshi’s stretching.
I must be his way of getting even for the slander.
“You, I said yesterday to not touch my skin so much! Pervert freak!”
“I can’t support without touching. You’ll get used to it right away.”
“As if I’ll allow it!”

They’re performing the same type of exchange as yesterday.
I had the intent of calling myself the person to most understand Vaine, but those two are already far more close.

Well then, during the time the two were flirting, I looked around the area.
Oh, there are faces I know here and there.

I found Iris.
She’s also exercising with meticulous care.
She was making the eyes of ‘I’ll win no matter what.’
Thanks to that, I hesitated to greet her with light feelings.

Which reminds me, this academy has no consideration towards the sexes or the like.
A pure contest of physical strength without handicaps, huh.
Well, the excelling women are just that numerous, I suppose.

…I won’t lose to Iris, right?
I became a bit uneasy.

I look around for others and,… he’s there!!
The first prince Arc and his best friend Reil.

While the two's floridity stands out, above all, being surrounded by women is the reason for standing out so extremely.
Arc wasn't showing the sort of polite correspondence he showed at the party.
That's him appealing, 'Hurry up and leave!' with his gaze.
I can see his best friend Reil trying to curry his favor going, 'Now, now.'
As I thought, being a prince is difficult.

I look around the area again and… , once again, big-shot spotted.
Eliza Deauville.
The prime minister's daughter and the grade's top beauty.
Excellence in studies, almighty in sports.
Possessing blue eyes, her beautifully lengthened hair reaches until the waist.
She is slightly closing her eyes and standing erect while folding her arms, but that standing figure is also beautiful!
As expected of my future wife.
Honestly, she's absurdly my type.

And yet, why is her personality bad!?
If she were modest, wouldn't she be perfect?。
What a waste.

Even now Eliza's followers, the big four, are stationed behind her.
Everyone is being coerced by the big four's gaze and don't approach.

If there's a man worth greeting, she will approach on her own.
With the exception of that, reject all others! It's as if they were given such a mission.
That has to be it.

Come to think of it, the Eliza in the game, If I'm not mistaken, was in class A as if it were a given.
So that means she should encroach upon the upper ranks of this marathon.

…Pu.

After imagining Eliza's face as she's frantically running, I laughed a little.
Even though she's putting on such a cool act… .

It seems like from my imaginary image, a feeling of affinity towards Eliza bubbled up.

It seems that Vaine and Crosshi are getting on well together, so I approached Eliza's location out of curiosity.

"Yo, morning. I'm-"
Before ending talking, I was thrusted away by a woman who could be thought of as the big four.
That's violence!!

"Back off, menial!!"
"Menial!?"
What's menial!? It's the first time I've been called it so I don't know.

"Um, I just thought to greet Eliza-san," I conveyed with quite the confusion.
"Eliza-sama is busy right now. Do you not understand by looking!? Menial!!"
The member of the big four who thrust me away answered.
"Menial!? Well, I'm just standing anyway."
"You're persistent, menial!!"
"Menial!?"

"Stop, Merime-san"
The unexpected entrance of the core.
Eliza commands the girl called Merime and came in from of me.

To the point you could call it perfect, a beautifully conducted bow.
I almost ended up letting out a pure impression of to the like of, 'beautiful.'

"You are Kururi Helan, correct? I am named Eliza Deauville.
I'm sorry that one of my attendants were rude to you just earlier."
"Nah, It's fine. I'm not worrying about it.
More so than that, please treat me well from now on, Eliza-san."
"Yes, I am incompetent in many things, but please treat me favorably."
"Nevertheless, Eliza-san, not excluding that bow just now nor your appearance, everything about you is very beautiful."
Her appearance was so beautiful to the extent that such simple words are inexcusable.

"Fufu, It seems Kururi-san is skilled in the treatment of women."
"No, It's simply my true feelings."
"Is that so? Then I will happily accept them.

Well, I have to prepare. I will take my leave here.”
“Ah, let’s both do our best.”
“Yes.”

Eliza finished a perfect bow yet again and quickly went back.
One of the big four, Merime also came did a bow as an apology.

More so than that, take back that “Menial!” from earlier!!

My impression of Eliza was a very good one.
I can’t imagine such a kid bullying Iris.
Hmm, but she will do it.
That’s women’s scariness right there. You can’t see anything coming from the outside appearance.
I need to stop her without being fooled by her beauty.
That’s also my greatest reason for me being at this academy after all.
I finished my warm-up and put a light burden on my body.
At ten minutes before starting, everyone in the surroundings are finished preparing.
As expected of a school where the elite gather.

“You get nervous a bit, right, master?”
Right before the start, Crosshi said such a thing.
“Ah, I get nervous.”
It’s better to talk when you’re nervous. It’s my pet theory.
“Is everyone ready?”
There was no one who responded to instructor Woo’s call.
That’s also the sign that everyone is fine.
“Start!” Along with the instructor’s voice, a signal gun resounds.
Right after starting, three large masses are formed – the lead, middle, and low rank group.
Everyone must have objectively judged their physical strength and decided to move to their position beforehand.

I naturally hung to the lead group.
I don’t want to think about too many unnecessary things.
I didn’t look to see who was nearby.

The school's outer wall can be seen on the left while running, so I turned left at the first turning point.
There are four of these points total. After three turns, last is a straight line.

At the first turning point, the lead group had approximately fifty people.
The group gets progressively spread out and it becomes easier to run.

The group continued to spread apart in this way.
At the second turning point, it had decreased to about thirty people.
Ah, Vaine's here.
I noticed because he's big..

Bad, bad. If I lose concentration, I'll fall out of the group.

After the turning at the second point, the straight portion is long.
For a straight course, no matter how much you run, it doesn't seem like the distance has been closed.

I bear this mental anguish and by the time I notice, the group has become about ten people.

The one pulling the vanguard is the first prince, Arc.
'Really!?' I thought, but no good! Focus!
At the third turn, the longest straight section had finished.
Arc, Reil, Vaine, a guy who runs with a spring in his step, and I remained in the lead.

I was a bit surprised by the prince who raised his pace after coming so far, but somehow everyone hung on.

However, after turning at the last point, Vaine and the springy guy fell out.

It's the final battle with three people.

Arc put on his last spurt.
I hang on so I don't get pulled away, but I immediately realized.

I have another gear.

But, let's turn over first place.
I don't want to stand out too much and it doesn't seem like it'll be good later even if I win against the prince.

I decrease my pace little by little and pulled away from Arc.

I get overtaken by Reil who I had temporarily pulled away from.
He also seems to be reasonably tired and doesn't force himself to pass me.
We proceed in the shape of running side-by-side and the goal becomes visible.
It seems Arc has already reached the goal and is resting.
"You seem like you still have your composure," I was suddenly told such a thing by the Reil next to me with a smile.
It was a strangely eerie smile.
Power leaves my body, giving a weightless feeling. Reil is second, but I took third.

After the race, Arc and Riel are praising each other's efforts.
Immediately after, at the end of a close contest between Vaine and the springy guy, Vaine won by the difference of a tenth of a second.
"Alright!"
It's his rarely heard loud voice.

"Kururi did better than I thought," Vaine came and called out to me after getting water.
"Vaine also did well running with that large body."
I also gave praise to Vaine.
After exercising, just why does your mood seem to become so refreshing?

After that men who trained their bodies flowed into the goal one after another.
As expected, it was intense for women, so there are still no clearers.

"Next is ninth, huh."
It's the final one-digit place.
I look at Vaine and his gaze was turned towards the course.
I'm sure one thing or another, he's worried about Crosshi.
And he might also be wishing he makes it into the upper ranks at the same time.

I was immediately able to see the ninth placer.
It's a woman!

Due to it not being Crosshi, Vaine immediately lost interest.
After straining my eyes, I can see a dead heat unfolding between Iris and Eliza.

Whoever enters next is ninth.

It is the last single-digit place and also a fight that staked the women’s first for the two.
The two are frantic enough that for value of their beautiful faces to be lost.

Iris.

You can’t win!!

I yelled franticly in my heart.
I want to put it into voice, but I can’t do something like that.

Eliza’s pride will be trampled over.
Please!!
Iris, for your sake, for my sake, for the world’s sake, please lose!!

“Do your best! It’s the end, stand firm, Iris!!”
Vaine is refreshingly cheering beside me without worrying about the presence of others.

You stupid bastard!!
“Eliza!! Stand firm!!”
I instinctively let out a voice.
“Iris!!” Vaine yells.
“Eliza!!” I also yell undauntedly.
“Iris!!”
“Eliza!!”
“Iris――!!”
“Eliza―――!!”

The two see the goal and enter a final acceleration.
The two rushed into the goad at nearly the same time.

Which is it!?

“Eliza’s a bit ahead.”
Instructor Woo answered.

“Yeah―――!!”
I unintentionally yelled.
Eliza had the expression of, ‘Why are you pleased?

“Well done. Eliza-san…, right? It was a good race.”
Iris ran over to Eliza and extended her hand.
A good after sports scene.

“Hmph.” Eliza lightly spurns her and ignores her, going to get water.

Iris comes this way sorrowfully.
“It looks like I’m disliked. Even though we had a good match.”
“Well done. It was a good match. Also, a good result.”
Passing water to Iris, I showed a full smile.

Chapter 16

The school's trees and flowers had finally bloomed, dyeing the surroundings in vivid colours, while in contrast the faces of the students were stained pale with fatigue. I myself am tired, but I think I'm rather tea-coloured instead.

I wonder how everyone else did for the physical exam? Because it looks like they were all drained of their energy.

Those that had just finished their long trip from home, and those that weren't accustomed to the new environment looked *especially* dark with fatigue.

They had no choice but to accept that their abilities were only at that level.

Today they're only announcing the results of the exam, the actual entrance ceremony starts five days from now.

Some use that time to rest and relieve themselves of their fatigue.

Other than that people just look around the school grounds, or do whatever they need to, to prepare for the changes that are going to happen soon.

At the entrance to the school building there a large sheet of paper posted, and written across its top was 'Freshman Physical Achievement Exam Results', displaying each student's name and score from first to last.

An academic exam was carried out the day after the physical exam.

The exam lasted all-day, and the next day another set of results were posted.

I guess the teachers have it rough too.

First place: Arc Kudan 500 points

First place: Iris Parala 500 points

Third place: Eliza Deauville 499 points

Fourth place: Rail Rain 498 points

5th: Kururi Helan 497 points

6th: Thomas Esojin 496 points

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67: Vaine Lotte 379 points

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114: Crossy Ammirale 311 points

Iris had beaten Eliza.

Well, there's nothing I can do about that.

She had the talent to enroll in a place like this despite being a commoner.

In all four tests of General Knowledge, Arithmetic, Accounting, and Simple Magic Science, she didn't even lose a single point.

It's good that Eliza won in the marathon at least.

With that said, I expected nothing less of the prince.

Did he really get a perfect score? I'm impressed.

Did he really not cheat? At the very least I can say I didn't.

Fourth place was taken by Rail.

This is also what I expected.

He was only a two points behind first place, he must've really wanted to take the top.

Fifth place is mine.

It's a good thing I learned a lot from Moran-Jiisan.

Losing those three points in General Knowledge kind of hurts though.

One of the questions was especially hard, it asked 'What is the official name of Vitamin C?'.

How is the official name of Vitamin C general knowledge? …but I guess those who complain can only admit their lack of knowledge for not being able to answer.

Vaine and Crossy came to see the test results together and reacted at the same time.

Vaine was stoic as always, but good for you Vaine, I'm happy for you.

It looks like Vaine will be put into the Class A where only students that had good results in the Physical Fitness Exam can enter, this is great.

Crossy looked like he was about to break down in tears.

"Sensei, I'm sorry! I'm a failure as a student!"

Crossy's physical exam by the way, had him placed at the 122nd position with his subtle performance.

I can tell he's not pleased from his voice.

He's probably going to be placed in Class C.

So Crossy’s going to be in a different class…

It would’ve been nice if we were all together though.

Not being able to pull himself together, he started to cry.

There were cute girls nearby, and his current state gave off a sort of helpless feeling.

I couldn’t tell him.

“Don’t worry about it, I myself was only a bit lucky, that’s all.” I tried to encourage him a little.

“Yeah, nguu, yeah next time I’ll work hard to get the best I can Sensei.”

He quickly wiped his tears.

I guess my worries were for naught, for a person to resolve themselves and say they want to be strong is nothing less and a hard worker’s mentality.

There are other reasons though.

“Only kids cry that easily. Kururi can help you with your studies, while I watch over your body training.”

Vaine opened his mouth and said so. For some reason he gets talkative when it comes to Crossy.

“Kid? Kid?! The hell are you talking about you beast!”

“You’re a boy that only eats vegetables every day, we’re going to Kururi’s apartment, run with me.”

“Don’t order me around!”

Crossy screamed out while running away from Vaine.

Wait, what?

Now you’re going to my apartment?

“Well it *is* the best place for studying. One’s own apartment, that is.”

As I was watching the two of them run around, I suddenly heard a determined voice in my ear.

Turning around I saw that it was Rail standing there.

He had a creepy smile on his face again.

Somehow I got the impression he was playing around with the image in his head… it’s a little scary.

“Well, I-”

“I guess this means I’ve beaten Kururi-kun in studying.”

He smiled while changing his standing position.

Somehow, he seems to be observing me.

“…In the Physical exam too, you knew my name.”

“Well that’s because Kururi-kun is famous after all.”

Really?!

I was sure that I was being inconspicuous.

“You’re… Rail-san right? Nice to meet you.”

Of course I knew who he is, but I pretended I didn’t.

He didn’t reply immediately, there was a short pause.

Then Rail started walking over as if he had seen right through me.

Is he really reading my mind?!

This person is way to scary!!

“…well met. Nice to meet you Kururi-kun.”

“Ah, yeah.”

I grabbed his outstretched hand.

And with a good grip on each other, we finished shaking hands.

“See you soon Kururi-kun, I’d like to talk with you more.”

He turned around and re-joined his original group with Prince Arc, so I guess everything turned out okay.

Even though he had a gentle smile on his face, I couldn’t help but feel like he was a somewhat scary person.

He acts like that but he actually comes from a family of farmers.

It may not be public knowledge and was covered up, but Iris learns the secret by accident one day and is forced to keep it.

You see, Rail was someone who had lost his parents in childhood.

He actually became acquainted with the First Prince during the time he was living in his grandfather’s house, and with his friendly personality he saw the true good in the Prince, so with that they just clicked, staying close friends since.

After the death of his grandfather, both the First Prince and his official attendant returned to the royal capital together.

He had shiny hair and beautiful features that rivaled the aristocracy. He was a great study, and quickly became well versed in the rules of society, such as courtesy and tradition.

From the outside, nobody would’ve been able to guess that he came from a farming family.

Sorry, I already know the secret that allows you to become acquainted with Iris. I'm really sorry.

Don't worry though, I'll make sure to keep this secret to my grave, I won't tell anyone.

While I was contemplating things, Iris walked over and waved at me. She seemed pretty happy.

"Hey."

"Hey, I took first place."

It was a beautiful smile, one that made one want to compliment her the moment one saw it.

I also felt a bit guilty about supporting Eliza over her during the marathon.

At the very least, I'll praise her here.

"I knew you could do it. In the future I'm sure you'll do great, granted I'm expecting one hell of a 'thank you' once you're succesful."

"I'll keep that in mind."

She replied with a smile.

Once we finished talking, Iris left for the library,

There was also Vaine, who I wanted to check on quickly before he destroyed my apartment with whatever he's doing with Crossy.

With that said, there was still one person I definitely had to see first.

Without a doubt, it was Eliza.

Without batting an eye, she stood transfixed in front of the results table with her arms crossed.

Other students wanted to see their exam results too, but didn't approach her due to fear.

You're troubling everyone! Realize the situation you're in Eliza!

…is what I said in my mind, I couldn't say it out loud because unfortunately she scares me too. Just a little bit.

Still, if nobody would say so then I had too.

My body started to move on its own, carried along by emotion, as if it were on a mission.

As I approached, her entourage consisting of the Four Heavenly Kings intercepted me.

Hmm? There was another girl in place of the girl who always called me 'Servant'.

Is there like a rotation system or something? I'm a bit concerned on how their organization works.

The thing was, the eyes of the woman in front of me seemed to scream 'Within three seconds, you better be out of my sight Servant!', that's what her eyes said.

No, really. I'm not lying.

It might have not been said out loud, but her eyes said everything.

I wasn't scared though.

I took another step towards Eliza.

The other day we were in a rush due to the exam about to start and we didn't

even ‘know’ each other then (I did though), but this time we’re already acquainted so they don’t want to raise a fuss that would direct her attention to me.

“Hey Eliza, you look a bit vexed there, is there something wrong?”

If I go straight to the point, she won’t have any time to complain.

There was a short pause of awkward silence. The answer I expected didn’t come.

“W-well even if it’s not a perfect score, to be able to get 499 points is amazing, no?”

I could almost feel the air around me wreathe in awkwardness.

“…I didn’t know.”

Eliza had started muttering something under her breath.

Even though I was this close I couldn’t hear her very well, I think she said something about a ‘challenge’?

“How the hell am I supposed to know the official name of Vitamin C?!”

Eliza suddenly shouted out to nobody in particular.

Everyone turned their eyes away on the chance that she might’ve turned her gaze their way.

Then with a ‘hmph’, as if nothing had happened at all, Eliza walked away.

The Four Heavenly Kings followed soon after.

So Eliza also made that mistake.

As I thought, it’s not ‘General Knowledge’.

…I looked it up later, and apparently the official name of Vitamin C is ‘ascorbic acid’.

| ToC |

Chapter 17

Vaine's POV

Every morning at 5:00 AM, my body wakes up naturally.

This is a habit I've developed ever since I was a kid, so I could get up and finish my morning run.

After a light jog around campus, I headed towards the cafeteria.

My plate was filled to the brim with food.

The mess hall lady is really nice.

I would've just called out 'Seconds please' with a smile, and taken a large amount of rice if I wanted more though.

I learnt how to eat in moderation at home.

Mother always had to cook enough for father, myself, and my two younger brothers all by herself.

Anyways the school food really exceeded my expectations for what I thought it'd be like.

Its delicious, but I still think I'll miss mother's home cooking in about a month or so.

Although I already thought I was an adult mentally, I guess I needed to be away from home to realize this childish side to myself, huh?

I guess this means father sent me here because he thought that it would be a good experience for me, even if was only a little bit.

When I left the house, my father and my brothers sent me off themselves

without showing too much concern.

I was only going to be gone for about three years, I didn't want anything like a grand departure anyways, so that was fine.

Though mother was filled with tears in her eyes when she saw me off.

She also gave me a gift, saying that I should use it so I wouldn't embarrass myself when I tried to make new friends And without even saying 'thank you' one month ago, I left my house.

In retrospect, I'm feeling a little regret over that.

I think that if it was the me of now I could've said my thanks to her.

Since before I never even considered such things necessary.

Though now I can think clearly.

I guess this is what people would call a 'growth in character'.

I don't know if my mother's gift had any effect, but I was still able to make a friend.

Honestly I didn't think I'd be able to make a friend this quickly.

With that said, I think he's the kind of guy that you could remain friends with for life.

If I could find at least one thing to cherish over my three years away, everything would be worth it.

Those were my thoughts as I traveled to the school.

However, my thoughts have changed a bit from then.

I want to find something I can devote my life to at this school.

Yes, I want that, but in addition to that I also want to enjoy my school life as much as I can, just because I can.

My friend's name is Kururi.

At first I thought his figure tempering a sword was a little scary, but he actually turned out to be quite gentle.

I felt a lot of new feelings when I was with him.

When he finished eating the sheep with me, he even shed tears of happiness, though he didn't eat as greedily as my brothers did as we grew up together.

I think it's good to have a big appetite.

I often find him reading books.

If one were to judge him on first impressions, they would just think that he was the son of some unreliable nobles, but those rumours and reality are quite different.

His hands are similar to mine, in how they're covered in calluses that could've only been developed by swinging a sword everyday.

Both his upper and lower body are well developed, while he also seems quite proficient with magic.

You know, sometimes I see the First Prince Arc around the school, and just by looking at him, I can *feel* that if we ever fought while holding nothing back, I would definitely lose.

I get the same feeling from Kururi whenever I see him.

He would be a formidable opponent if we ever had to fight.

Harbouring feelings like that towards friends might be rude, but I think he'll forgive me for just this much.

I still haven't met with the resident of apartment 1-3, but that's okay.

I think that being able to meet with Kururi and my other friends was lucky enough.

'The seasoning they used for today's meal is a bit dark.'

I thought about such things as ate I breakfast.

The food Mom always cooked at home had a lighter taste, so I always ate my fill.

Oops, I'm reminding myself of her again, I'm going to get homesick at this rate.

Anyways, there's another friend who I used to get a bad feeling from when I saw him.

He's a friend who goes to Kururi's apartment every day.

He suddenly asked if he could become Kururi's apprentice, and I couldn't help but be wary of a guy who suddenly draws near someone just because they said they 'want to get stronger'.

He's short, his body's slim, and he has a high pitched voice.

With an appearance that could be easily compared to a woman, he suddenly blurted out that he wanted to be as strong as Kururi and asked to be his apprentice.

He gave off a bad first impression, so I didn't want to get too close to him, the fact that he looks like he's capable of magic is really bothersome.

But after a while, weirdly enough, when I got a good look at him his face reminded me of my mother's.

My younger brothers took after my mom too, so it almost felt like one of my brothers came here to commute with me.

Unfortunately, because of him I'm often reminded of my mother.

After I finished my meal one of the mess hall ladies suddenly asked: "Did you have a good meal?"

'Of course', isn't the best answer here.

I'm thankful, but I'm not very good at speaking with people like them.

Once I left the mess hall the sun had already started to rise.

Just a couple more days until the entrance ceremony.

So like usual, let's go to Kururi's apartment today as well.

"Morning Vaine, wow you're up early."

On my way to apartment 1-1, I met with Kururi outside.

"It's not that strange, I'm always awake at this time."

"Well~ There's a reason why I'm up. You see, I smithed an amazing sword last night! It's probably my best work yet!"

His face looked really fatigued.

But more powerful than that was his excitement that seemed just to ooze out of him.

It was obvious just from the tone of his voice.

“You going somewhere?”

“Ah yeah, I’m going to go and test the new sword.”

The sword Kururi was holding was certainly a treasure.

I’m not really that interested in swords themselves, but I couldn’t help but get fascinated by its beauty.

I was even a bit jealous of him.

“Are you going to hunt demons?”

“Yup, to the west there are a few small monsters lurking about and since there’s no real risk there, it’s the perfect place to try this out.”

His face became brighter yet again.

He must really want to test it.

“Do you want to come Vaine?”

“No, I have my own training schedule to stick to.”

“Is that so… Sorry if it sounded like I was pressing you into it.”

“Don’t worry about it.”

After we finished our conversation, Kururi left with a little quickness to his steps.

I ended up in front of his apartment ten minutes later than usual.

I guess I’ll just sit in front of the door and wait for now.

“Did he forget his house key?”

My eyes were closed, so I didn't even notice him until I heard his voice.

He was walking over here at a steady pace.

"You're wrong, but now that you're here let's go start our training."

"Ah, understood."

Crossy tried opening the door to Kururi's apartment.

"Oops, looks like Kururi-dono isn't here yet, does this mean you were waiting for him outside?"

He sent a glance towards me.

Again, his face overlapped with my mother's for an instant.

"I wasn't, Kururi is out on an errand, so today we're training in my apartment."

When I said that, Crossy suddenly drew back.

His eyebrows wrinkled together all of a sudden.

"I can't go to such a dangerous place! Its way too different if we're alone!"

"Don't shout so loud in the morning. My apartment's structure might not be the same as Kururi's but there's no danger."

"Not that kind of danger! It's something else! Don't take me to a strange place like that alone!"

His words are kind of harsh, aren't they?

I wonder why he's so wary. I'm going to help train him but that's it.

"Nothing strange will occur, don't worry."

"Really? Swear that nothing strange will happen!"

"I swear. We're only going to train."

Crossy went silent. I guess he still doesn't trust me, I can feel the distance between us.

"If something happens… I'll die trying to kill you."

“It’s impossible for you to kill me.”

“Shut up! Take me seriously for once!”

While grumbling curses and such we finally entered my apartment.

Now we can finally start training.

Like usual, we stretched our bodies first.

This guy’s motor reflexes aren’t half bad.

He’s also a quick study.

Although most people aren’t very flexible, after only a week he can already do all the difficult stretches, he must have a pretty good body.

For the final stretches I was going to help him out, but he knocked my hand away.

“Hey, watch where you’re touching!”

“I was just going to lean on you to help you stretch.”

“Still, don’t.”

With a little resistance, I was able to confirm all that I needed.

“You developed the bases quicker than I thought. Now we can start focusing completely on body building.”

“Really?! Then I’m counting on you, okay?”

Crossy said so happily.

He likes to train, I guess.

I guess I understand, I was also happy when father allowed me to hold a sword for the first time.

He’s probably feeling the same way.

If he’s really feeling what I felt, then if I do the same thing my father did with me, we’ll get closer right?

“First, we’re going to build up stamina through running.”

“Okay.”

“…is what I was going to say, but since it looks like you’re progressing quickly, let’s do some special training.”

“Okay… wait what?”

To Crossy who looked a bit confused, I passed him a wooden sword from my bag.

“Its special training. It’s a house tradition that still works to this day.”

“Will it help me get stronger?”

“You’re a bit impatient, but yes as time goes on you’ll get stronger. Now, you just need to follow my instructions.”

“Okay… I understand.”

“Now, come with me to the garden.”

Clenching my sword, I headed towards the garden.

The moment I found out the dorm had a garden I chose an apartment on the first floor.

Once again I’m grateful I live on floor one.

Once we were in the yard I took off my shirt since it'd just get sweaty after this.

We'll swing our swords and sweat together this way.

I have good memories doing this with my father.

"What are you doing?! I knew you'd do something strange!!"

Crossy cried out.

"You should take your clothes off too, and then we'll start our training."

"Like hell I will!!"

He screamed while swinging his sword towards my head, thankfully I was able to dodge in time.

To swing a sword that quickly without hesitation, as I thought he's well suited for sword play.

"You swore nothing strange would happen!"

"This isn't strange. I felt like we got off to a bad start, so in order to strengthen our bond we'll work off a sweat together, this is just skinship."

"That may be so, but I still want to wear my clothes!"

"…"

"You're unsatisfied?"

I don't have any feelings of discontent.

I've already become friends with Kururi by sharing my favorite sheep, but I also wanted to become friends with Crossy, and make good memories together.

Kururi said it might be impossible to become friends with everyone, maybe he was right.

"Look, I won't take my clothes off, but I'll keep swinging the sword with you until you're satisfied. Is this okay?"

It took me a bit to realize what Crossy had said.

Once upon a time, there was something my mother told me.

My home was one shared with my three brothers, where we devoted a lot of time to the sword.

Therefore we grew up without any people we could really call ‘friends’, but we didn’t have any ‘enemies’ either.

Born to the same house, we all chose to walk the path of swordsmanship.

“In the world there are many people who have a different mindset from yours, and just so you know, your mother here is one of them.”

So this was the thing that my mother talked about.

The words she said that day were resounding in me.

One more time, let’s give trying to be friends another shot.

I thought the people mother talked about might be humans that thought differently.

No, not ‘might’, but probably.

If we’re not both enjoying it, we might not be able to become true friends that enjoy each other’s company.

After looking at Crossy’s stern face, I couldn’t believe I just stomped over those feelings this entire time.

“Okay, then let’s start.”

“Leave it to me.”

“Well, once I start swinging, tell me if there’s anything wrong.”

“No problem.”

Crossy started swinging the sword.

As I checked him over, I didn’t see any particular problems.

He wasn’t making any amateur mistakes.

If there was anything to point out, it would be how his thin body was.

Even his legs look a little thin.

I’m not sure whether this could be a problem or not.

At the very least I want him to put on some muscle.

I grabbed his thigh… it feels almost as thin as his arm.

“So you would do something strange! Touching someone’s inner thigh out of nowhere!”

“Try to gain at least 20 kg of weight.”

Calculating from his physique, it looks like he’ll need at least this much.

“Like hell!”

“Don’t worry, if we just increase the amount you eat every meal, you’ll be ready in about half a year. Oh, and how much do you weigh anyway?”

“Don’t just ask about someone’s weight like its natural!”

| ToC |

Chapter 18

I can’t wait to try out my new sword.

I wasn’t able to sleep yesterday, but I’m too excited right now to care about something like that.

You see, there’s a forest that hosts weak monsters about 80km west of the school grounds, and it just so happens that I was given permission to borrow the same chestnut-coloured horse I rode the other day today as well.

I wonder how much time had passed since I left.

The horse didn’t seem to mind the long run, in fact it seemed really happy that it was able to run as long as it wished.

I was told that the small monsters gather at the west side of the forest, and even then they don’t herd together in groups to protect themselves.

That said, I shouldn’t underestimate them. Even with their size, there are many monsters that can utilize poison and other dangerous elements for self defense. I was told that there weren’t any like that in the area I was heading to though, so I should be alright.

It’s the perfect place to test this guy out.

“Now… Let’s go!”

Clapping my legs against him, the horse understood what I wanted and accelerated to an even faster speed than before.

It was around noon when the forest finally entered my vision, but for some

reason the horse had stopped.

I don’t remember telling him that though.

“Hey, come on.”

With a light scolding, I clapped my legs against his stomach again.

That’s weird, just a few minutes ago he was behaving just fine.

When I got a good look at him, it didn’t seem like he was grumpy or anything.

On the contrary, he looks just quite healthy.

Is something wrong?

As I wondered about such things, I turned towards the forest.

It was vague, but I could definitely see something moving in the thicket.

The ‘thing’ froze for a second, as if contemplating whether it had been seen or not before actually coming out.

“A ghoul, huh?”

It’s a corrupted-corpse type of demon.

Disregarding the fact that he was scared of it, for the horse to be able to sense monsters from this far away is amazing.

Even if it’s only one, if its a ghoul I should probably turn back.

According to Moran-Jiisan, he said that ghouls are a kind of monster that I should definitely run away from.

More famous than its individual strength, its poison is what people really need to be wary of. There isn't any antidote for it, so you have no choice but to admit that to encounter one is extremely dangerous.

I know that I should've turned around the moment I saw it but… I really want to try out my sword…

I mean, I just have to, you know?

Fortunately its movements are very static and easy to read.

Looking closely at it, I realized it was dragging one foot slightly with each step, it must've been injured by something.

Oh I have to do this! My willpower holding me back was wavering.

There's also the new spell I wanted I want to try.

This is a chance for me to use the magic I learned from Moran-Jiisan's '3rd Grimoire'.

The contents of volume 3 are: 1) Property Alteration, and 2) The improvement of external mana/magic power, including even more advanced magic. Magic like this includes spells that are recognized by the state.

Its theme seemed to revolve around the 'purification of magic organisms'.

I was able to learn spells that granted temporary life to inanimate objects.

Needless to say, to actually use it is incredibly difficult.

Despite my practice, I still haven't been able to have a 'complete success' but it's started to take shape at least.

Whether or not the spell will usable in combat will be judged by how well today's results are.

While still on horseback, I poured my mana into the weeds around me.

"Those who are not visible to the naked eye, materialize."

My expelled mana was quickly absorbed by the weeds, and from the earth, a sound similar to a thousand ropes snapping resounded.

When everything had died down, from the soil that had swollen upwards, *they* appeared.

There were about a hundred creatures that resembled radishes with limbs, and had grass growing on their 'heads'.

For what one would have considered the front of their bodies was where their faces were.

The faces looked like they were dug into them, resembling old men.

Their bodies were eroded due to the holes used to create their faces, giving off an unbalanced impression.

I succeeded, but I failed.

Just to make this clear, I have *no* intentions to create a creatures like this. *Ever.*

'Go away!' I thought almost instantly.

They all just stood there for a bit, but they eventually noticed me and started bouncing up and down while crying out like animals.

"U~i~tsu~", "U~i~tsu~", "U~i~tsu~", "U~i~tsu~", "U~i~tsu~", "U~i~tsu~", "U~i~tsu~", "U~i~tsu~", "U~i~tsu~", "U~i~tsu~", "U~i~tsu~", "U~i~tsu~",

“U~i~tsu~”, “U~i~tsu~”, “U~i~tsu~”, “

“U~i~tsu, u~i~tsu, u~i”

The victim was desperately explaining to the rest of them.

Whether he was telling the truth or not wasn’t known by me. I mean, how could I understand what they were saying?

I’m the perpetrator and I can only wait for the verdict, so could you shut up already?!

“U~i?!”

Anger started leaking from the creatures who heard the story.

“U~i~tsu!!!!”

It seems to have become comrades with the rest of them.

Every single one of the guys I summoned plunged towards me.

“U~i!!” “U~i!!” “U~i!!” “

Crap, it seems like I just poured oil on the fire.

“Sorry, please forgive me, it was my bad.”

An “U~i??” sounded out with a nuance wondering if I was apologising.

“U~i.”

Sorry, no matter how many times you say ‘U~i’ at me I’ll never understand what you’re saying.

Despite that, the one that I had kicked held out its limb towards me. Huh, I guess the meaning of my words were transmitted after all.

I reached out and took his limb with a firm shake.

“U~i!”

“Yeah, let’s let bygones be bygones.”

Once we let go, they all started jumping up in joy again.

“U~i”, “U~i”, “U~i”, “

“Let’s see, uh…”

The ghoul has gotten considerably closer than to how it was before.

“Bind down that guy in front of us!!”

“” “” ” U~i!! “” “” “

They all got up at once, and started running faithfully according to my instructions.

They all jumped at the ghoul at once, the sheer brute force of numbers forced him down easily.

“Guooo~”

The ghoul hopelessly outmatched in numbers was bound in place.

“Nice.”

I think I’ll call them the ‘U~i’ corps, even though I thought they were a failure, they’re surprisingly useful, so I guess I can call that a success.

I jumped back onto the horse and closed the distance towards the ghoul.

It must’ve noticed me approaching because it tried to spit something from its mouth.

I guess I should approach it from behind huh?

Jumping off the horse, I drew my new sword.

Once again, I couldn’t help but admire it.

Balance, durability, beauty, it is by far my best work in all aspects.

I bet even my old blacksmith-sensei couldn’t make a sword like this… maybe.

This sword is that amazing.

Voices of admiration leaked out.

It was my radish men.

“U~i!!”, “U~i!!”, “U~i!!”, “U~i!!”

‘Do it already!’ is what they seemed to say, though the desperate expressions on their faces don’t really change. I guess I’ll do it, the troublesome ghoul is already tied down, so why not?

It might not leave a good feeling behind, but it would be better to finish this guy off quickly as they say.

Steadying my sword, I eyed the ghoul’s nape.

“U~i!” The radish man that was on the nape howled. Do you have to scream that every time?! I yelled in my mind.

Of course this might be a little cruel coming from a guy about to kill something but…

“See ya.”

I swung the sword, and the ghoul’s neck was cut clean. There wasn’t even any feeling of resistance, from it.

The sword’s sharpness is really amazing.

Maybe the neck only went flying because it was this type of monster. The feeling I got as I swung was the same as cutting through pudding, so it is possible.

This individual ghoul was really stiff, but to be able to behead it with a single slash… I can only say ‘wow’.

The U~i corps had released their restraint on the ghoul, and gathered the body of one of their friends. Ah, did it slice through them too? Oops…

Carrying it over, they all gathered around me again, the person who had just killed it.

Are they going to start this again?! Is what I thought, but to my surprise, they didn't.

They were all silent to honour the dead.

He died a worthy death, full of loyalty.

So don't cry! Send him off with a smile!

Because he died for my own selfish reasons, I couldn't help but feel a little guilty.

Sheathing my sword, I jumped back on my horse.

After I return the U~i corps back to the ground, I'll go back to school.

Suddenly I noticed some unexpected movement. As I looked down at the fallen ghoul, the body that had been beheaded was moving.

! ?

It was horrifying, I could feel my body breaking out in cold sweat.

Ghouls don't die even after all this?!

It'd probably be best if I stayed a safe distance away.

Clapping my legs against the horse's sides, I took some distance from the ghoul.

"Scattering Flames"

A hellfire born from my mana surged from the ground, encroaching the ghoul in flames.

Without any pain, without any time to struggle, the ghoul's body collapsed as nothing but a pile of black carbon.

Turning the horse around, the U~i corps had gathered.

Unexpectedly, it seems they also evacuated the magic zone.

"Thanks for everything you guys."

"U~i!"

The nuance seemed to say they were sad.

'Are you going to return us to the earth already?' is what they seemed to say.

Of course, there's no way I would bring these guys back with me.

"Those who are not visible to the naked eye, return to the earth!"

The U~i corps banishing technique looks like them all diving into the soil.

All that remained of them in the end was just a group of weeds.

For a while, I just rode the horse absentmindedly.

It was already past noon.

…I can't help but feel a little guilty.

It’s probably because I saw that sad face earlier.

I was thinking about such things on my ride home.

I swore to myself in my heart to fix that failure of mine.

This really is a lot of work though. Perhaps it’d be better to play around a little more in this world. instead.

The horse turned its head towards me, giving me a thoughtful look.

“Sorry, were you worried?”

Nevertheless it continued to stare.

“Hmm?”

There was a girl walking on the left side of the path.

“Iris!!”

From the silhouette, I could definitely tell who it was, and I urged the horse towards her.

“Kururi?! What are you doing here?”

Iris who was carrying something in hand was similarly surprised.

“That’s what I was going to say.”

“Oh, well I was feeling a little homesick, but because I couldn’t eat rice like back home, I was hoping to collect some wild plants to cook in the cafeteria.”

“So that’s why, I can’t say i’m surprised, I feel a little homesick too sometimes.”

“Yeah, by the way, why is Kururi out here on a horse?”

“Its because I smelted a new sword last night and I wanted to test it out.”

“Oh, are you going back already? Can you give me a ride back? My trip would

sure be faster with a horse.”

School is only a couple kilometers away, but I’d feel uneasy if I left her here alone.

“Sure I can, best regards.”

“U~i!”

“U~i?”

“Oh, it’s nothing, don’t worry about it. Anyways let’s ride!”

It was the first time I’ve ever ridden two-seater, but the only reason why I was able to ride so smoothly was because the horse is amazing.

As I thought, an honest horse is a good horse.

Even among the other horses, this guy’s pretty straightforward.

Looking at the sky, it was already sunset. Thinking about how this day was coming to an end, I couldn’t help but feel a little sad.

“Today I had a great meeting.”

Iris started saying something while looking down.

“Really? Who’d you meet?”

“Who? Well, it’s a good person, but I don’t really know them that well yet.”

“Funny, you don’t know them very well but you still think they’re a good person?”

“Yeah, if they really are the gentle person I think they are, it might be nice to settle down together one day. ”

I wonder who it is? I can only guess for now.

“If it’s somebody that you judged to be a good person, they probably are, but it’d still be better to take care, just in case.”

“Don’t worry, I’ll be careful.” she replied with a small laugh.

Looking at Iris’ silhouette in the sunset made my heart skip a beat. Calm down me!

Since we were riding at a quick speed, the wind whipping against us was pretty strong.

It was strong, but it had an inexplicable warmth to it.

“Today I also had a good meeting.”

“That’s great! So we both had good meetings today.”

“Ah.”

“Hmm… but how do I say this? You have a sort of lonely feel to you right now.”

“Really?”

“Yup.”

“Then you’re probably right.”

“If you talk, it might be easier to organise your feelings you know?”

“It’s not enough to just talk about it, but I think it might help.”

“Was it a fight?”

“I guess you could say that.”

We were quiet after that for quite a while.

The only thing we could hear, was the footsteps of the horse galloping in rhythm.

“You have to make up if you fight.”

“…yeah.”

Silence again…

“…Hey Iris, did you know this isn’t even this horse’s quickest speed? I can make it go even faster, you want to try?”

“Let’s do it!”

“Then here I go!”

“Go!!!”

It seems Iris feels uplifted with the wind too.

Clapping my legs against the horse, I instructed him to run even faster.

Faster…

Faster!

Come on! Go the fastest that you can!

This feels great.

Iris is enjoying it too.

And the sunset is so beautiful.

This might be the perfect time to say it.

“U~i~!”

| ToC |

Chapter 19

Abel's POV (New Character!)

My thoughts kept going back to that meeting this morning.

Holding a bow larger than the norm, and carrying a pair of small game on my back, it was supposed to be a regular trip to the mountains.

You see, every spring in the mountains nearby the village, many bears appear after coming out of hibernation.

Had they come out yet? I didn't know, I hadn't seen any yet.

Selling the materials from bears nets a good profit.

It's fun hunting, and I get gold out of it too, so it's the perfect pastime for me.

From the moment I woke up this morning, my body was aflame with energy.

Today was going to be a good day, I could feel it.

Funny enough, almost immediately after I entered the mountainous area, I found a bear bigger than any I had ever seen.

It hadn't seem to have noticed me yet.

More precisely it couldn't have noticed me, it was busy glowering at some girl carrying a bunch of mountain-plants.

Why would you come to the mountains now of all times?! What a stupid girl.

She didn't even have any weapons on her.

The bear fixed the girl's figure in its gaze, and swooped down on her with the full momentum of its size.

I drew my bow.

This was a mighty bow, so mighty in fact, that it took me two years of training before I was able to use it properly.

In the village, there is nobody strong enough to use this bow other than me.

…or so I say, but right now my arm was screaming in protest to the bow's tension.

The arrow I took out was drawn to the bow's limit.

Along with the fact that the arrows are considerably heavier than normal ones, this would definitely be a deadly shot.

Focusing on the moment that the bear moved, I released the arrow.

Slicing through the air, the arrow let out a sharp ring as the beast was struck.

Right in-between the eyes.

It's a simple thing if you focus enough.

That's good, we'll get to have some good bear this year.

As a bonus, I even got to save a damsel in distress.

'Thank you for saving my life, as thanks take whatever you want'. 'Then don't mind me as I help myself!' Something like that maybe? Well, I'm fine with anything though.

"Hey girly! You okay?!"

"Yeah, you saved me there, thank you."

After approaching and getting a good look at her, it actually looks like she's my

age.

…and she's really cute.

I was so focused on taking down the bear that I didn't notice.

If I had known she was this cute I would've been a bit more friendly when I called out to her.

"What are you doing in the mountains during this season? Didn't your father ever teach you common sense?"

"…no, umm… my father's not here anymore."

"Oh, um…"

Crap.

I didn't mean to bring up a touchy subject like that, hopefully she hasn't started grown unpleasant feelings towards me.

Argh whatever! A cute girl is trying to thank me so why am I driving her away?!

"Well around this time, all the bears sleeping in the mountains wake up from hibernation, haven't you heard?"

"Unfortunately no, I just arrived in this area recently."

So that's how it is…

"Does that mean, you're one of Elenoire Academy's new students?"

"Yeah, my name is Iris Parala."

Well what do you know? Turns out she's one of the young mistresses going to that noble school.

It's a good thing I saved her when I did.

Though now that I've helped her, what's she gonna do to return the favour?

Around five years ago I helped another Elenoire student out of a pinch, and they ended up giving me five gold.

This girl's not only cute, but she's rich and I just saved her life. I should definitely get something at *least* worth ten gold this time.

"Love, for a saving a beauty like you, I'll only charge you ten gold coins."

"Eh?! There's no way I can pay off that exorbitant amount of money!"

"Really? Well, if you can't pay cash, I'm fine with taking something of equal value. Don't you have any jewelry on you? Hurry up and take it out."

"Sorry, I'm not wearing any jewels like that."

"It doesn't matter what it is, as long as it's gold I don't care."

Her face scrunched up in confusion towards my statement, and instead of gold, she offered me some of the wild plants she had picked.

"…don't you have like a gold necklace or something?"

"The only thing I have are these edible wild plants."

Taking another look at the girl, her dress wasn't any different from us commoner folk, there wasn't a single expensive thing on her.

She even looked a bit skinny.

"Just what are you?"

"My name is Iris Parala."

"You already told me that."

"Then what am I supposed to tell you? All I have are these wild plants I've picked, so what else can I give?"

"Nonono, I mean, why are you picking wild plants in the first place? Noble kids don't eat stuff like that."

“I never said I was part of the aristocracy, I missed eating wild plants like I did back home, so I came to pick some.”

“But you *just* said that you’re one of Elenoire Academy’s students.”

“You can enroll there even if you’re a commoner you know?”

Eh?! Really?!

I didn’t know that.

The moment she said she was actually a commoner, for some reason the unpleasant feeling I had disappeared.

I took another look at her face.

Yup, it’s still really cute.

“A commoner at a school for nobles… That must be tough.”

“Really? I don’t think it’s that bad though?”

“Are you sure? I can feel my nausea coming up just by thinking about it.”

“Hmm… I guess everyone has there own opinions, no?”

As our conversation started to come to an end, my stomach started rumbling.

That reminds me, I still had the two birds I shot down this morning while riding my horse.

It’ll be ready to eat if I just grill it.

“I’m going to cook some game I caught earlier, you want one?”

I heard that in that noble school, they’re given lavish meals to eat every day.

We get to eat a fair share ourselves, but I don’t think they serve wild birds there.

I’ve never heard of them eating something like that.

“N-no thank you…”

Told you so.

I tried to leave the way I came, but then I saw it.

…That person’s face, its the face of someone who wants to eat messily!

That’s what I could tell from her face, but I could also tell that she had experienced the taste of grilled wild birds before!

“Are you sure?”

“I’m sure.”

“The birds I caught this time have a good amount of fat on them you know?”

“…”

She didn’t reply, but I definitely heard her gulp!

“Despite what you say, you definitely have the face of someone who wants to eat some.”

“Who are you talking about?! Are you talking about me?!”

“Oh yeah? Well I don’t mind, I can finish one bird no problem, finishing two grilled birds instead won’t be that big a deal.”

“…What do you mean?”

“Well, if you were nobility I would’ve never offered, but since you aren’t, along with the fact that you’re a bit skinny, I think I’ll let you have some. Come on, I’ll start the fire.”

“…okay.”

With a hearty fire created by the two of us, I grilled the birds.

A fragrant smell started drafting about.

My only regret is that I didn’t have any salt or anything on me, but that couldn’t be helped.

“The school meals are a bit too fancy for my tastes, I just can’t get used to them.”

“That’s a problem of luxury I guess.”

“Hehe, yeah. At first, I was thrilled that I could eat food like that, but eventually I started missing the frugal meals of back home.”

“Like wild plants?”

“Yeah, foods that I used to eat with my dad and the rest of my family. Plants like these… and small wild birds.”

Ugh, we should probably avoid topics that relate to her dad.

“Come to think of it, I still haven’t heard your name yet.”

“Abel. I don’t have a family name, no parents either, I was picked up by the people in my village when I was young.”

“That’s a nice name, Abel.”

Iris made a somewhat sorry face.

I don’t want her to make a sad face like that.

Once the birds finished cooking, I passed the first one to her.

We both bit into our birds at the same time.

Just as I expected, delicious!

“It’s delicious!!”

Iris clenched her fist and raised it up.

“I can’t stop my mouth.”

“Yeah, it’s a taste you’ll never forget.”

…and before we knew it, the birds were gone.

“What about the bear?”

Iris looked towards the fallen bear behind me.

“Later I’ll carry it to my village and share it with everyone. I can’t just keep it to myself.”

“Wow, you must be really strong.”

“Right? I’m a free man that can’t be reined in. That’s the kind of guy I am.”

“Yeah, I think I could see that.”

Oh, I was confused for a bit but I got praised.

I rarely get to talk with beauties like this so it can’t be helped.

“Hey Iris, are you happy attending a school built for those nobles?”

“Yeah, I have to work hard and think about my future though.”

“That’s what I mean, I can’t imagine happy future from a place like that.”

“That’s not true.”

She immediately denied it as if I had lied.

It’s a school built for the aristocracy after all, how could commoners like us commute to a place like that?

“You’re probably one commoner surrounded by the ‘noble’ majority. You’re

probably going to become the subject of discrimination you know?”

“I’m…”

“What, did I say something wrong?”

If you don’t want to speak, I won’t force you, but I think it would be better to talk than to not.

I want to know if there’s anything wrong.

“There was a girl that lived next to me in the dormitory, and at first we got along… but after she found out that I was a commoner, she decided to cut all ties with me. Everyone else started avoiding me too soon after.”

Iris’s words left a clogging feeling in me.

I wished that she wouldn’t have anything to say to me, but I also think it’s good that she got that off her chest.

You really can’t put a lot of faith in nobles.

Damn, for some reason I’m feeling angry.

“Shouldn’t you just resign and leave such a place?”

“I can’t afford to do so. I have a family waiting at home, and they’re placing their hopes on me making it through there.”

I myself have never tasted discrimination.

Iris probably hadn’t until recently as well.

It must’ve substantially hurt her when it all happened.

Towards the aristocracy I can only feel more and more hate.

“…but you know, not everyone there is like that.”

“What do you mean?”

“There are also some strange people there, and I don’t mean they’re bad people when I say they’re strange.”

“Hmm?”

“There are also people who call me a friend, though that doesn’t really change my situation much.”

“What kind of people are they?”

“One of them is the heir to the Helan territory nearby, the one to become its next lord. The atmosphere he gives off is different from the rest of the academy students.”

“Don’t you think he might have some ulterior motives?”

Iris is a beautiful girl.

There would probably be many a man that would approach her with bad things in mind.

“There might be people like that, but I don’t think Kururi is one of them. The people who give off an air similar to Kururi seem to just naturally gather around him, it’s a little funny how he can act that way yet still be a noble.”

“Was that a compliment?”

“Of course!”

Iris was a bit sad at the beginning, but it looks like things will be fine for now.

But strange nobles huh…

“Come to think of it, the whole village was in a uproar not too long ago about some strange noble who visited. He was a giant of man, who bought a whole sheep and then just left.”

“Oh that’s probably Vaine! Kururi wasn’t with him?”

“No, there was only one person there.”

“I was told that the two of them happily ate a sheep together, I guess it was a sign of friendship or something.”

“Is that so? If you want to eat sheep, come to my village sometime, we can eat one whenever you want.”

“Sorry, but if I come, I’d prefer to eat wild birds instead.”

“Okay, they’re my favorite too, I’ll teach you how to cook them so they’re good as well.”

“Really?”

“Yeah.”

As my spare, I lent Iris the small bow I had brought with me.

Initially I had a hard time pulling the bowstring, but my progress since then has been amazing.

“What an amazing talent. Aren’t you a genius?”

“Fufu, right?”

In response to her praise, I laughed brightly.

“That also looks like a good bow.”

“No, this is a bad one.”

“Well if you know the good from the bad, can you show me how to make one?”

“Sure, in that case…”

Whittling down a branch of wood with a knife, it slowly changed into the form of a bow.

I didn’t just teach Iris the procedure in making one, so in the end my hand was really sore.

Humans are really talented beings.

Just the figure of them working hard naturally attracts others.

If I don’t take care my heart is going to be stolen.

By evening, we were able to create a fine bow.

Now all it needs is the string.

I’ll finish it when I return to the village.

We made a promise to meet again so I can give it to her.

She looked really happy when I said that.

“Well then, I need to return soon.”

“You’ll be alright going home alone?”

“Yup, don’t worry.”

With her wild plants in hand, she started walking down the path.

Since the morning when I woke up, I knew it was going to be a good day.

Feeling just a little bit lonely, I called out to Iris’s back.

“Iris!! Whenever you get sick of the academy, come visit!!”

“Yeah! I’ll come!!”

.

Iris’ smile was burned into my head at that moment.

… and the sunset behind her just made it even more beautiful.

| ToC |

Chapter 20

The first princess Maria's POV

"Nee-san?! Why are you here?!"

Meeting again after such a long period of time, Lasa's face turned into an expression of astonishment, as he cried out in a loud voice.

"Why? Isn't it natural to for me to come home every once in awhile? Even if it is the imperial capital's royal castle, no?"

"…but both Nii-san and Aniki left 2-3 weeks ago. Why is Maria-neesan home when school starts so soon?"

Both Nii-san and Aniki? I almost replied 'Kid, aren't you a strange one yourself?' in response, but I held myself back.

I wonder if people see me as a weird person as well.

"I was waiting to receive an item I ordered from a merchant, and because it finally arrived today, I can now return to school."

"An item ordered from a merchant?"

As an answer to my brother's question, I took it out for him to see.

"Here it is."

"A pendent? It doesn't even have any jewelry in it, its all stone." he tilted his head in confusion.

I smiled, "True, it's not a gem, but this stone has a certain history to it that i'm interested in."

"Maria-neesan, again?! You've dabbled with suspicious items too many times already, and now you've gotten yourself another one?!"

“Hey, I never involved myself with stuff like that!”

“Nee-san, you might be a genius that can do anything after a few lessons, but you’re unbelievably gullible, you know that?”

“That’s not true!”

My brother’s eyes narrowed as he looked at me.

“Then what kind of effect does it give off?”

It’s only times like these that Lasa can actually look intimidating.

“I was told that just by holding this stone, I’ll be able to encounter many strange events as if guided by fate.”

Lasa’s face grew a couple degrees colder.

“Strange? Don’t you mean dangerous?”

“Don’t worry about it, I’m the strongest person I know.” I replied proudly.

“Heh? So you’re going to fall behind in school for something like this? Can’t you act more like Aniki, Nee-san?”

“Hmph Lasa, aren’t you forgetting something?”

“What do you mean?”

“There are still three days until the entrance ceremony, I can still make it with if I rush.”

“It takes a normal horse-drawn carriage a week to cover the distance, aren’t you being a bit too reckless?”

“Don’t worry about it, I’ll use the horses trained directly by the head butler, they won’t tire easily.”

“It’s not the horses I’m worried about Nee-san.”

“Oh?”

I patted Lasa’s head and gave him a wink.

“I’m the strongest big sister in the world, don’t worry, nothing will happen.”

“Sigh… Please don’t do this kind of thing again in the future.

But I think that side of neesan is amazing.

Rather than a coward like me, a cynical person like niisan is more suitable to be this country’s king.”

“Oh, is that me you’re talking about?”

Lasa’s cheeks were stretched to the sides.

It was supposed to only be a joke, but my cute little brother seems to have taken it as an actual threat.

“Well, I guess it’s about time I left, say goodbye to mother for me.”

“Understood, now just give me a sec to call the servants… Wait?! Nee-san?! Where are you going?!”

*

Before Lasa could say anything else I was already out the door.

I don’t want to be attached by the hip to some servant.

They’re only going to slow me down.

Quickly down the road, the galloping of my favorite horse Shiro-chan echoed out.

I only kept the minimum needed for food and money in my bag

Last time I was able to get to school in three days.

This time, let’s see if I can get there in two and a half!

The morning I left I couldn’t see a single person taking the same road as me, meaning… no traffic!

Yes, these are great conditions for a high-speed ride!

I'm probably riding at a new speed record right now.

"Good job Shiro-chan!"

Shiro-chan hasn't been able to run for a long time so she's happy too.

"Excuse me, that person on horseback! Can you stop for a moment?!"

After riding for a while, a voice suddenly called out to me along the highway.

As I came to a halt, the person calling out was actually a 7-8 year-old boy.

"Do you need something? I'm in a little bit of a rush here."

"S-sorry for suddenly calling you out."

The boy looked like he was about to cry.

"I'm on a journey, but I can't complete it without a horse, could you by chance lend me yours?"

"That's an unreasonable proposition, why should I?"

"I don't have a lot of money on me, so can I do anything else in replacement of payment?"

Hmm… what to do…

"I don't know, what's your story?"

"My grandmother is going to die soon, so in the end I wanted her to at least be able to eat her favorite sugar cake one more time. I traveled to the village in order to buy some, but because I was in a rush on my way back I twisted my ankle. I can't get back to grandma in time like this… *hic*"

The boy couldn't hold back his tears any longer, and started crying.

Those certainly were rough circumstances to deal with, especially for a kid that age.

Though once I hand over the horse, I won't be able to change my mind, and I'll definitely be late for the ceremony.

"I can't just give you the horse, it's too unreasonable a request."

"Really? So it's no good afterall. I'm thankful that you just stopped when I called out to you, I wish you a safe trip on your journey."

"I won't be able to give you the horse, but I don't mind if you ride on the back."

The boy's face instantly turned bright.

Of course I wouldn't just leave him behind.

Well, I might not be able to break my record, but I can just challenge it again another time.

*

"I bought it grandma! Your favorite sugar cake!"

"Oh thank you Jaro, it must've been a rough trip to make."

"It was nothing grandma, I'd do anything for you."

"I-i'm so happy right now, it's been a really good life."

gusu yeah, I was a bit skeptical at the beginning, but I'm glad I helped.

She has a good grandson, so I'm sure that grandma will rest easy knowing he's back.

"Apparently, you took care of my son, and because of that we were able to eat my mother's favorite cake with her in her last moments. Take this as thanks, I'm sorry that I couldn't give anything more expensive."

From the boy's mother, I received an item as thanks and her words of gratitude.

It was a bracelet made from glass beads.

To me it wasn't much, but it should be worth a decent amount for a commoner.

There was no way I could refuse it though.

"Well, now I need to hurry off to my own destination."

"Okay, have a safe trip, we won't forget this anytime soon."

"Let's get going Shiro-chan!"

Just barely enough.

That detour took quite a bit of time.

But there's still enough, since I've gotten better at horse riding since last year.

"Excuse me! The person on horseback over there!"

For the second time I was stopped along the highway.

"Do you need something? I'm in a hurry here."

"Oh my apologies, it wasn't that big of an issue that I stopped you."

Then why bother asking me to stop? I wondered…

"Can you show me that glass bracelet that you're wearing there?"

This? But this is something that you can buy pretty much anywhere.

I held out the bracelet that was dangling off of my right wrist.

"Oh, as I thought. It's the same as the bracelet that I sent to my wife, I'm feeling somewhat nostalgic now."

I wonder if the woman I met earlier was his wife?

Oh well, it's probably best not to ask too deeply into these sort of things.

"Somehow, the feelings that I had back then are sprouting inside me again. I didn't have any gold, but there was love. Our two hearts burned for each other, and we knew that as long things stayed that way, we wouldn't need anything else. Our stomachs were empty but our hearts were full, I was so happy at the time."

"Your wife sounds like a nice person."

"She was, but we've been separated for a while now, that burning passion of ours has already cooled down. She's leaving to travel to a foreign land by ship, and I don't think I'll see her again until the end of days."

"I see…"

Somehow, it's a sad story.

But it was nice to listen to.

"Oh how I wish to see her again… just to remember what I felt way back when… I want to see my Medea, but that ship is leaving soon, and there's no way I can get there on time by foot.I brought a lot of trouble to her throughout the years, so I guess it's only fair that she leaves to a foreign land for a break."

A teardrop fell from the eyes of the old man.

I wonder why.

Hmm… should I help him? Or leave so I won't be late?

Argh, whatever!! I'll do it!!

"Jump on Jii-san! I'll give you a ride to the harbour!"

"…but Ojou-chan."

"Right ***now.***"

“Okay!”

*

After another detour towards the harbour…

“Medea! There’s something I have to say to you!”

“It’s too late, our relationship has already ended long ago.”

“Don’t say that, today, I saw a bracelet that looks just like the one I gave you oh so long ago, and at that moment all the feelings of that time bloomed inside me once again.”

“Is that so? That’s nice, but I need to get on my ship now.”

“Medea! Please! I’m begging you! Please don’t go!”

“…tell me, what is this?”

Medea held out her right arm to Jii-san.

“This is… the bracelet I gave you all those years ago!! I thought you already threw it away?!”

“As if I could discard something like this.”

“Medea…”

“Dear…”

Gusu The couple’s love has been restored, it’s a good thing I brought the old man here.

I wish you two many years of happiness in your marriage!!

“I thank you for giving my husband a ride during your journey, from now on we will work hard to keep this relationship strong. Here, take this silver key that I was going to exchange for money in the foreign land, and have a safe trip.”

I was handed a mystery key made completely of silver.

I wonder what it opens, is it expensive?

Well as long as the couple is happy, I guess all is well.

“Well, if you excuse me I’m in a bit of a rush here.”

“Thanks again!”

“Your welcome! Let’s go Shiro-chan!”

It took me a while to notice it, but Shiro looked like she was getting tired from all these detours.

I couldn’t keep stopping for people, I had my own schedule to stick too!

“Excuse me! That person on horseback over there!”

Ignore it, ignore it.

“Please wait!”

I’m sorry, but I’m really in a hurry.

The man calling out to me jumped into the middle of the road! I was just barely able to stop in time. Rather than me, I think Shiro-chan was getting frustrated from her running constantly being stopped.

“What is it?! What do you need so bad that you would jump in front of a running horse?!”

“It’s something of the utmost importance.”

“Well can you hurry it up?!”

“Sure, but first can I see that thing that you are holding in your hand?”

I held out the silver key that I still had clutched in hand.

“Just as I thought, this is the key used to seal the former vampire king that struck fear in hearts of all men. Ever since the generation of my great grandfather, more than a hundred years ago we have been looking for it, and now I finally found it.”

“You want it? Here you go.”

“You’re just going to give it to me? I must have great luck to have met you.”

Upon receiving the key, the man fell to one knee and broke down in tears.

“Mother, father, grandfather, all of my ancestors, oh how you tease me so! To allow me to find the key we have searched for so long for, but to not give me enough time to make it to the seal! Once the sun rises the next day it will be too late, but there is no way I can make it to the ancient cave on foot! Messing up at the last moment, just what am I worth?!”

The man slammed his head on the ground and was punching the dirt with his fist.

“Why ancestors?! Why?!”

Why did I have to listen to your story?! Why?!

“I’m not going to take you…”

“What?”

“I said I’m not going to take you!!”

*

“To fulfill the one thing the Earl clan had sworn to do, to actually find the key to complete the seal…”

“With this key, the seal shall be complete! May your terror never see the light

of day ever again!”

“No! My ambition!! No!!!!”

…and with that the vampire king or whatever that voice was, was sealed inside the cave.

“Oh ancestors, our family’s wish has finally been fulfilled on this day, may all your souls rest in peace. ”

I didn’t cry.

It would’ve been better if I just ignored him.

“My journey is now over, so this legendary sword of mine is no longer needed, will you not receive it as my good will?”

I *really* don’t need it, but the man kept looking at me with that grateful expression of his.

His journey of a lifetime was over, how could I not receive it?

“Now if you excuse me I’m *really* in a rush here.”

“Oh great traveler, you are now the benefactor of the Sonata country, we are forever in your debt.”

“That’s nice, let’s go Shiro-chan!”

Soon after I was called out to by another voice.

…Will it ever stop?!

*

“Excuse me! That traveler over there!”

I wanted to ignore them, but I always stopped because it’s a conditioned reflex.

This is bad, my body's starting to get really fatigued.

"That sword attached to your waist, isn't that the sword used by the wise man?"

"Do you need a ride somewhere?! I'll give you a ride!! Just make it quick!!"

"Actually, yes."

"**WHERE?!**"

"Elenoire Academy."

"…nice, hop on."

| ToC |